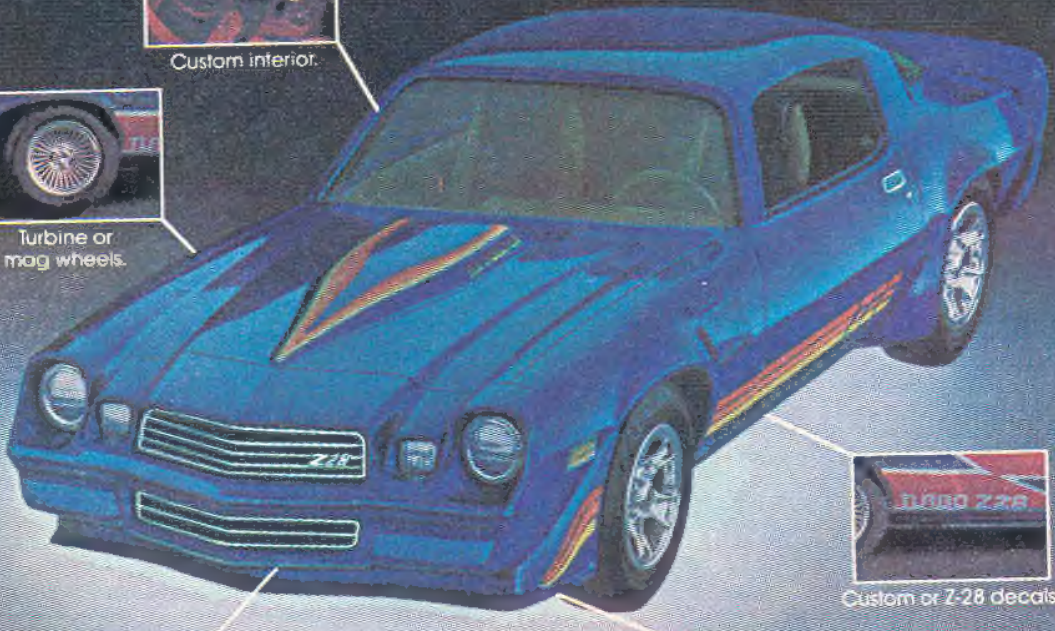
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
ALL NEW!
60c
U.K. 20p
MORE PAGES!
NO. 528
FEB.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
I CAN'T BREAK LOOSE FROM THE GRIP OF THIS DEATH-PLANET! NOTHING CAN SAVE EARTH NOW!
WRONG, SUPERMAN! THIS IS A JOB FOR BRAINIAC!
MORE NEW PAGES FROM THE NEW DC
ACTION-PLUS WITH AQUAMAN!
BUCKLER & GIACOIA

WITH MPC, OPTIONS ARE STANDARD EQUIPMENT.

Custom interior.

Turbine or mag wheels.



Custom or Z-28 decals.

Single quad or turbocharged engine.

Wheel well flares.

MPC model cars come with more customizing parts and decals than just about any other car kit. This Turbo Z-28 for example comes with all the things you see here, so you can give it a stock or full street machine look . . . or anything in between. And every 1/25th scale MPC car kit comes with a different set of custom options that lets you create a model car like no one else's.

The best models come from the best kits.

Available wherever model kits are sold. Paint and cement not included.

© 1981 Fundimensions, Mt. Clemens, MI. 48045

BEGINNING: AN EPIC-ADVENTURE UNLIKE ANY YOU'VE READ BEFORE!
SUPERMAN SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH BRAINIAC
Created by JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER
A STUNNING STAR-SPANNING SAGA THAT WILL RIP APART THE HEART OF THE UNIVERSE ITSELF!
AT LAST! THE MAN OF STEEL BREAKS FREE, IN...
STAR-KILL!
MARV WOLFMAN, (WRITER)
CURT SWAN, PENCILLER
F. CHIARAMONTE, INKER
TODD KLEIN, LETTERER
G. D'ANGELO, COLORS
JULIUS SCHWARTZ, EDITOR
1

ACTION COMICS, (USPS 004-480), Vol. 45, No. 528, February, 1982. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright © 1981 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition, nor affixed to, nor as part of any advertising literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.

Advertising Representative, Sanford Schwarz & Co., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017, (212) 391-1400.

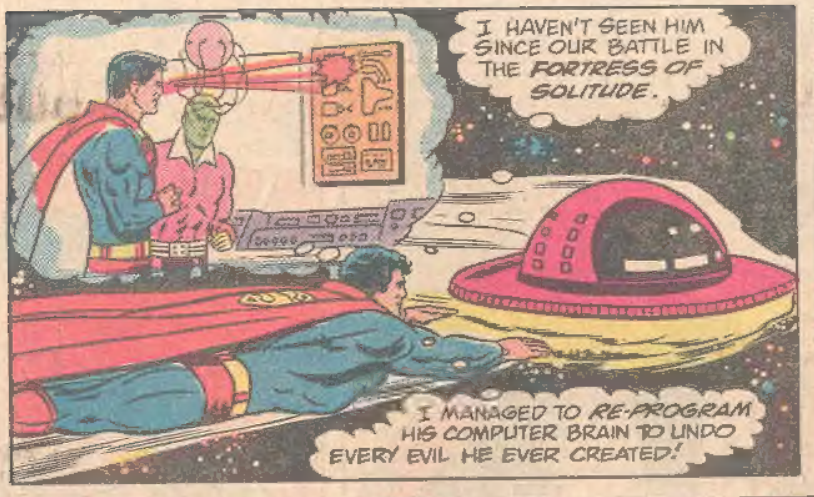
SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., DC COMICS INC., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, N.J. 07024. Annual subscription rate $7.20. Outside U.S.A. $8.20.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to DC COMICS INC., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, N.J. 07024.

Jenette Kahn, President and Publisher
Joe Orlando, Vice President, Editorial Director
Julius Schwartz, Editor
E. Nelson Bridwell, Consulting Editor
Karen Berger, Editorial Coordinator
Jack Adler, Vice President-Production Director
Bob Rozakis, Production Manager
Paul Levitz, Manager of Business Affairs
Arthur Gutowitz, Treasurer

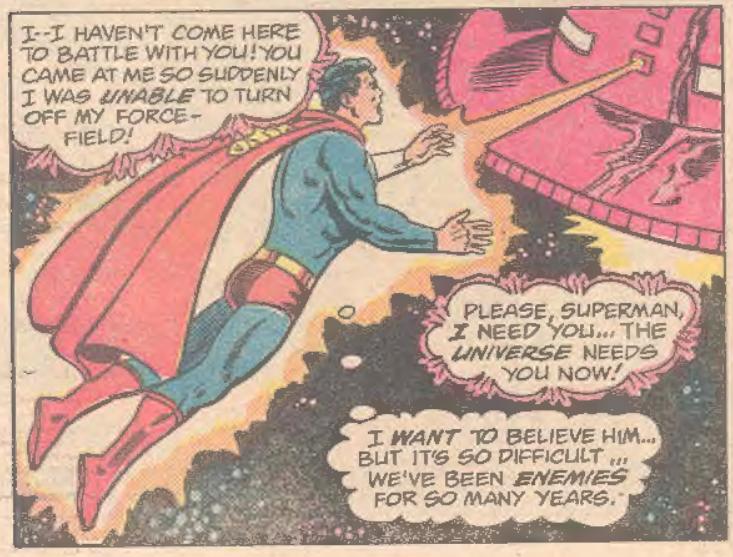
A Warner Communications Company

BUT EVEN AN ADVENTURE TO THE STARS CAN BEGIN IN THE QUIETEST OF SURROUNDINGS: THE BOARDROOM OF THE GALAXY BROADCASTING BUILDING...
DAILY PLANET
GBS
...AND THAT'S THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT!
THE PLANET'S CIRCULATION HAS BEEN DOWN FOR MONTHS NOW...
...WHEREAS GALAXY'S TELEVISION PROFITS ARE SOARING.
I TOLD YOU THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE DROPPED "DOONESBURY."
MR. EDGE, HASN'T OUR CURRENT SERIES ON "THE GIRL-FRIENDS OF SUPERMAN" HELPED ANY?
OH, SHUGH, JIMMY.
IT WAS A FLOP, KENT. NEVER SHOULD HAVE LET YOU TALK ME INTO IT.
EVERYONE KNOWS OLD STEEL-HEAD ONLY HAS EYES FOR LANE.
THOUGH ONLY HEAVEN KNOWS WHY.
NOTHING HAS HELPED, AND OUR STOCKHOLDERS DEMAND ACTION. THEY WANT GALAXY TO DUMP THE PLANET!
GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST! ARE THEY INSANE, EDGE?
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
ON THE CONTRARY, WHITE, WE CERTAINLY CAN!
IS THIS THE END OF THE PLANET? PERHAPS, BUT NOT THE WAY MORGAN EDGE PROPOSES...
EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON MY REACHING HIM IN TIME!
I COULD NEVER SURVIVE ANOTHER CONFRONTATION WITH THAT... MURDER MACHINE!
TO THINK, MY OWN CREATION NEARLY DESTROYED ME!
AND NOW, TO STOP IT BEFORE IT DESTROYS ALL LIVING MATTER THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY--
--I MUST SEEK THE AID OF THE MAN WHO WAS ONCE MY MOST DREADED FOE!
HIS NAME IS BRAINIAC, AND PLAINLY HE IS TROUBLED!
2

SUPERMAN WILL HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME...
...OR THE PLANET EARTH, AND PERHAPS THE UNIVERSE, WILL BE REDUCED TO LITTLE MORE THAN AN ENDLESS, LIFELESS VOID!
WHILE...
I DON'T BELIEVE EDGE. HE SAYS THE WAXMAN CHAIN WANTS TO BUY US FROM GALAXY? --WAXMAN?
WHY, THEY'LL TURN THE PLANET INTO A SCANDAL SHEET!
INSTEAD OF POLITICS AND CRIME, I'LL BE TURNED INTO A GLORIFIED GOSSIP COLUMNIST!
CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING, PERRY?
I WISH I COULD, LOIS. 150 YEARS OF INTEGRITY DOWN THE DRAIN IF WAXMAN GETS US.
I TELL YOU, I'D RETIRE FIRST.
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT, PERRY?
WE'RE JUST LITTLE FISH IN THIS GREAT PUBLISHING POND!
YOU'RE RIGHT-- YOU'RE A FISH, CLARK--A JELLYFISH!
GOLLY, LOIS, THERE'S NO REASON TO INSULT ME!
PERSONALLY, I THINK PUTTING SOME LIFE INTO THIS TIRED PAPER ISN'T A BAD IDEA!
ARGH! HE'S INFURIATING! THAT MAN HAS SO MUCH TALENT, AND THEN HE ACTS LIKE--LIKE SILLY PUTTY!
CLARK KENT! YOU DRIVE ME CRAZY!
POOR LOIS, SHE REALLY WANTS TO SEE CLARK ACT LIKE A MAN!
AND SOMETIMES EVEN I'D LIKE TO DROP THE PRETENSE!
BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP CLARK AS MUCH IN THE BACKGROUND AS POSSIBLE, JUST SO HE ISN'T MISSED--
--WHEN THERE'S A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!
PLANET
MY SUPER-VISION PICKED UP BRAINIAC'S STARSHIP HEADING EARTHWARD!
3


I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE OUR BATTLE IN THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE.
I MANAGED TO RE-PROGRAM HIS COMPUTER BRAIN TO UNDO EVERY EVIL HE EVER CREATED!

BETTER BE PREPARED--BRAINIAC'S ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF MY TOUGHEST OPPONENTS!
EH? HIS FORCE-FIELD -- IT'S KEEPING ME AT BAY!
SO I GUESS THAT CLINCHES IT!


I--I HAVEN'T COME HERE TO BATTLE WITH YOU! YOU CAME AT ME SO SUDDENLY I WAS UNABLE TO TURN OFF MY FORCE-FIELD!
PLEASE, SUPERMAN, I NEED YOU... THE UNIVERSE NEEDS YOU NOW!
I WANT TO BELIEVE HIM... BUT IT'S SO DIFFICULT ... WE'VE BEEN ENEMIES FOR SO MANY YEARS.

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

Play the Bubble Yum® Sweepstakes

...and win exciting electronic and photographic prizes.

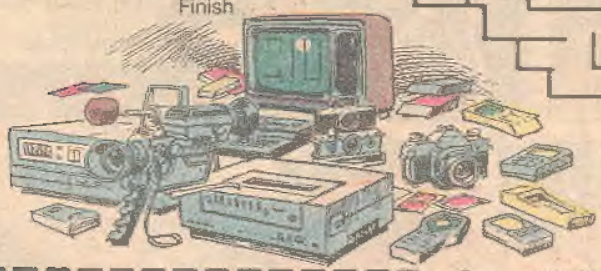
First, draw the path through the maze and then mail it in with your sweepstakes coupon.

Start

With Bubble Yum, you can blow amazing bubbles even bigger than this maze.

If you don't know where to turn, turn to Bubble Yum's five great flavors: Regular, Tropical Punch, Spearmint, Wild Cherry, and Grape.

Finish



Don't give up—Bubble Yum's long-lasting taste doesn't. And it's got a smooth, soft chew too!

Please Print

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

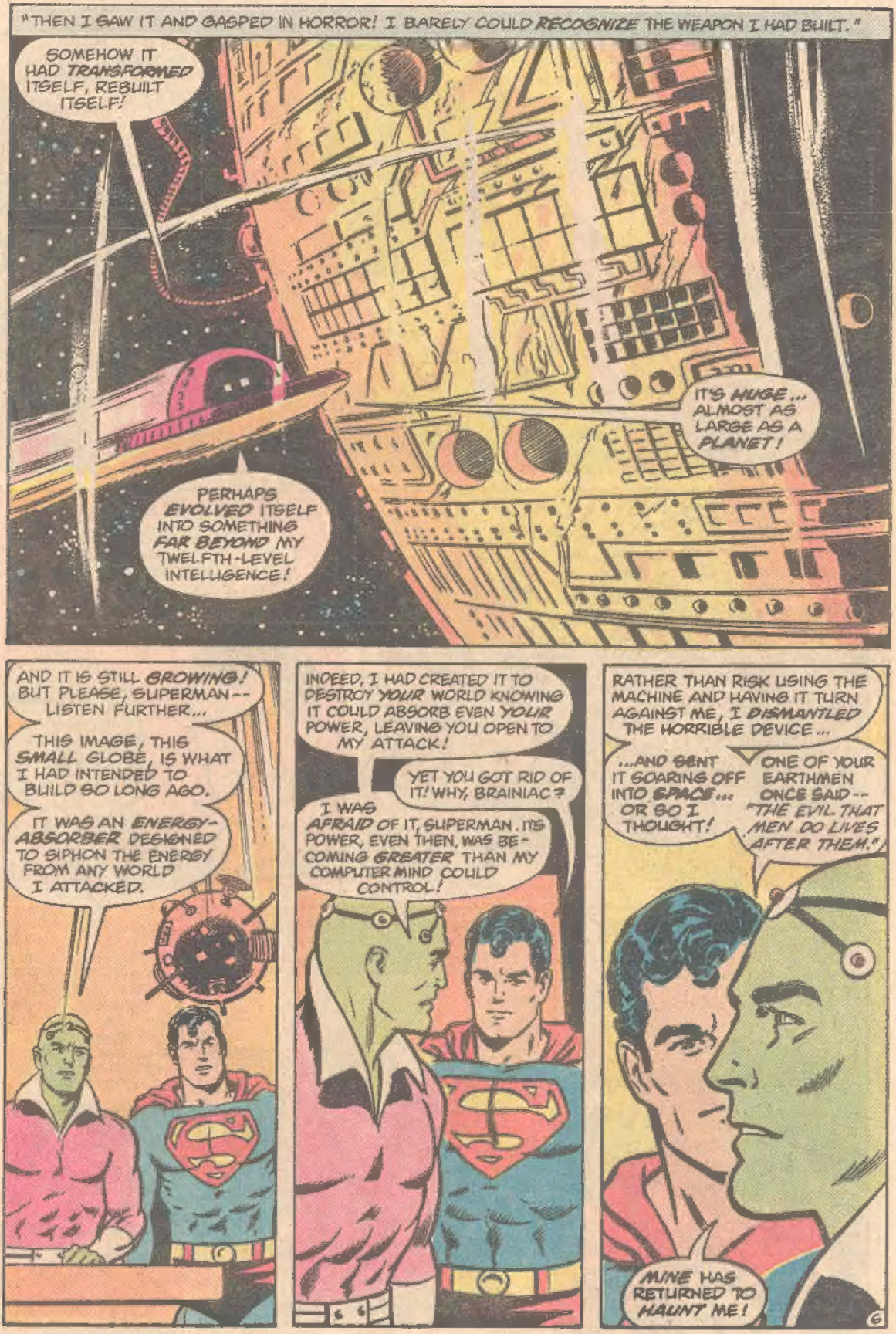
Congratulations! You've made it. Now look at the great prizes you can win:

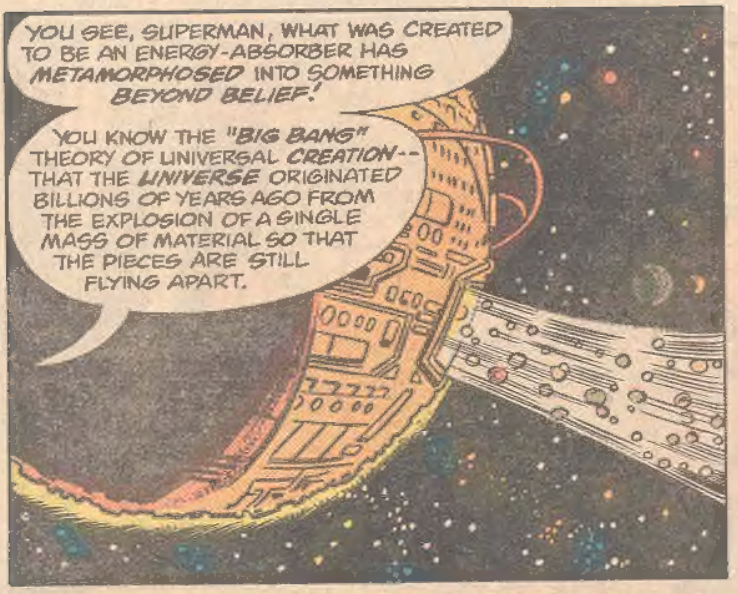
- ★ First prize includes: a Panasonic Reggie Vision with video cassette recorder and sound camera, Canon AE1 35mm camera, and two Polaroid SX70 Auto Focus II cameras. (2 Winners)
- ★ Second prize is a Mattel Intellivision with 4 cassettes. (10 Winners)
- ★ And, third prize is a set of 4 Mattel hand-held computer games. (100 Winners)

Mail entries to:
Bubble Yum Sweepstakes
P.O. Box 573
Lowell, IN 46356

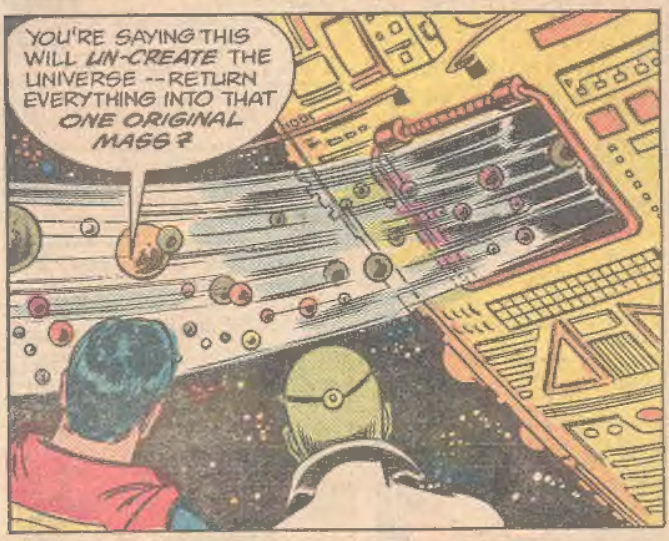
1. Correctly completing the maze is not necessary for entry.
2. No purchase necessary. To enter, print your name, address and zip code on the official entry blank or on a plain 3x5 piece of paper. Each entry must include two (2) outside wrappers from "Bubble Yum bubble gum" or print the words "Bubble Yum bubble gum" on a 3x5 piece of paper.
3. Enter as often as you like, but each entry must be mailed separately. Entries must be postmarked no later than December 31, 1981 and received by January 15, 1982.
4. Winners will be determined in a random drawing conducted by Ventura Associates, an independent judging organization whose decisions are final. Winners will be notified by mail. All prizes will be awarded. Odds of winning are dependent upon the number of entries received.
5. No duplicate prizes to a family and no substitutions. Winners may be required to sign a statement of eligibility and winners' names and likenesses may be used for promotion purposes. Liability for taxes is the sole responsibility of the prize winners.
6. Sweepstakes open to U.S. residents, except where prohibited by law. Not open to employees and their families of Life Savers, Inc., their affiliates, advertising, and judging agencies.
7. For a complete list of winners, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Bubble Yum Family Fun 'n' Games Winners List, P.O. Box 366 WL, Lowell, IN 46356.

AND, AS THE MAN OF STEEL SLIDES THROUGH THE AIRLOCK...
... YOU CREATED THIS "DANGER TO THE UNIVERSE", BRAINIAC?
AND I AM INCAPABLE OF STOPPING IT, MY FRIEND.
PLEASE, OBSERVE MY HOLOGRAPHIC-PROJECTOR AND THEN YOU WILL BETTER UNDERSTAND.
AFTER OUR LAST ENCOUNTER, I SOARED THE SPACEWAYS, FULFILLING THE MISSION YOU GAVE ME.
I TRAVELED FROM WORLD TO WORLD. ON KORDOS I RE-PROGRAMMED MY OWN BRAINIAC ROBO-DUPLICATES WHO SAVAGELY SUBJUGATED THAT BARBARIC PLANET.
I MOVED ON. ONCE, LONG AGO, I HAD PLACED A SATELLITE IN ORBIT OVER THE PLANET ALTAIR-3 WHICH PERMANENTLY ECLIPSED ITS SUN.
"HOW HEARTLESS I HAD BEEN, SUPERMAN. THOSE PEOPLE KNEW ONLY PERPETUAL NIGHT!
"BUT NOW I DESTROYED MY ARTIFICIAL MOON AND RETURNED DAYLIGHT TO THOSE ALTAIRIANS."
ON ONE WORLD I FREED THE SLAVES I HAD TAKEN.
ON ANOTHER, I BANISHED THE MONSTERS I HAD SET LOOSE TO TERRORIZE ITS NATIVES.
BUT THEN, MY COMPUTER MIND LOCATED SIGNALS... FROM A WEAPON I THOUGHT I HAD LONG AGO DEACTIVATED.
THOSE SIGNALS WERE PAINFUL TO MY CYBERNETIC SENSES. AS I NEARED THE WEAPON I HAD ONCE CREATED, I WAS IN VIRTUAL AGONY!
5


"THEN I SAW IT AND GASPED IN HORROR! I BARELY COULD RECOGNIZE THE WEAPON I HAD BUILT."
SOMEHOW IT HAD TRANSFORMED ITSELF, REBUILT ITSELF!
IT'S HUGE... ALMOST AS LARGE AS A PLANET!
PERHAPS EVOLVED ITSELF INTO SOMETHING FAR BEYOND MY TWELFTH-LEVEL INTELLIGENCE!
AND IT IS STILL GROWING! BUT PLEASE, SUPERMAN -- LISTEN FURTHER...
THIS IMAGE, THIS SMALL GLOBE, IS WHAT I HAD INTENDED TO BUILD SO LONG AGO.
IT WAS AN ENERGY-ABSORBER DESIGNED TO SIPHON THE ENERGY FROM ANY WORLD I ATTACKED.
INDEED, I HAD CREATED IT TO DESTROY YOUR WORLD KNOWING IT COULD ABSORB EVEN YOUR POWER, LEAVING YOU OPEN TO MY ATTACK!
YET YOU GOT RID OF IT! WHY, BRAINIAC?
I WAS AFRAID OF IT, SUPERMAN. ITS POWER, EVEN THEN, WAS BECOMING GREATER THAN MY COMPUTER MIND COULD CONTROL!
RATHER THAN RISK USING THE MACHINE AND HAVING IT TURN AGAINST ME, I DISMANTLED THE HORRIBLE DEVICE...
...AND SENT IT SOARING OFF INTO SPACE... OR SO I THOUGHT!
ONE OF YOUR EARTHMEN ONCE SAID -- "THE EVIL THAT MEN DO LIVES AFTER THEM."
MINE HAS RETURNED TO HAUNT ME!
6


YOU SEE, SUPERMAN, WHAT WAS CREATED TO BE AN ENERGY-ABSORBER HAS METAMORPHOSED INTO SOMETHING BEYOND BELIEF!
YOU KNOW THE "BIG BANG" THEORY OF UNIVERSAL CREATION--THAT THE UNIVERSE ORIGINATED BILLIONS OF YEARS AGO FROM THE EXPLOSION OF A SINGLE MASS OF MATERIAL SO THAT THE PIECES ARE STILL FLYING APART.

MY DEVICE CAN NOW UNDO ALL THAT... RE-ABSORB ALL MATTER, AND AS IT DOES SO, IT GROWS LARGER--
--SOON IT WILL BE LARGE ENOUGH TO SWALLOW WHOLE A STAR!
HOLD ON, BRAINIAC! THIS IS ALMOST GETTING BEYOND ME.


YOU'RE SAYING THIS WILL UN-CREATE THE UNIVERSE --RETURN EVERYTHING INTO THAT ONE ORIGINAL MASS?

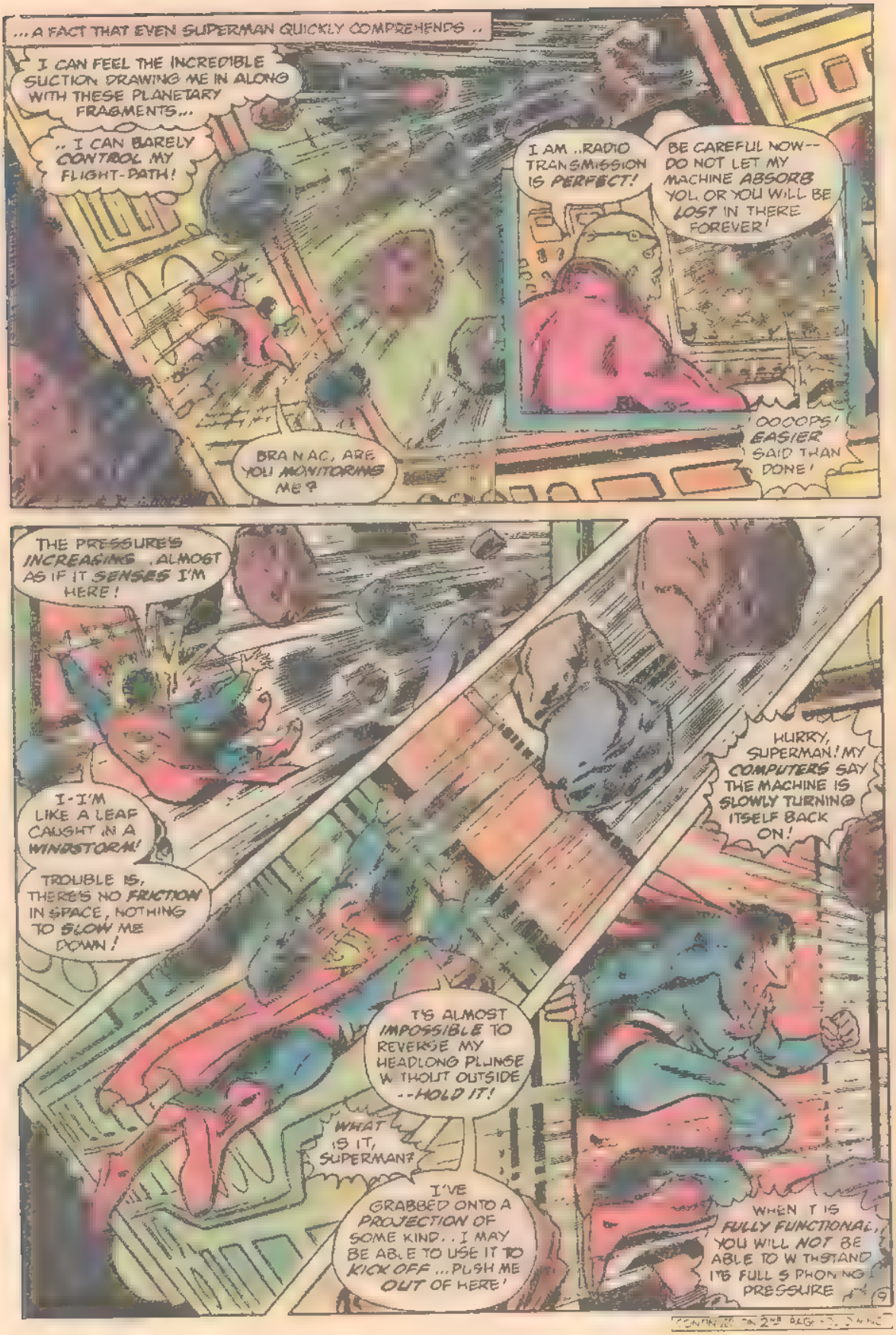
WHAT WAS INTENDED TO CONTROL WILL NOW TOTALLY DESTROY!

"THE PLANETS POPULATED WITH LIFE WILL FIRST SUFFER ITS EFFECTS. TIDAL WAVES WILL CRUSH MASSIVE CITIES...

"...THEN EARTHQUAKES WILL CUT EACH PLANET INTO A THOUSAND SEGMENTS AND MORE.
"THIS MONSTER I CREATED WILL DESTROY ALL LIFE!"

EVERYTHING THAT HAS TAKEN BILLIONS OF YEARS TO FORM, ALL MANNER OF LIFE WILL INSTANTLY, TOTALLY BE ENDED!
WE CAN'T LET THIS HAPPEN! SOMEHOW WE'VE GOT TO STOP IT!

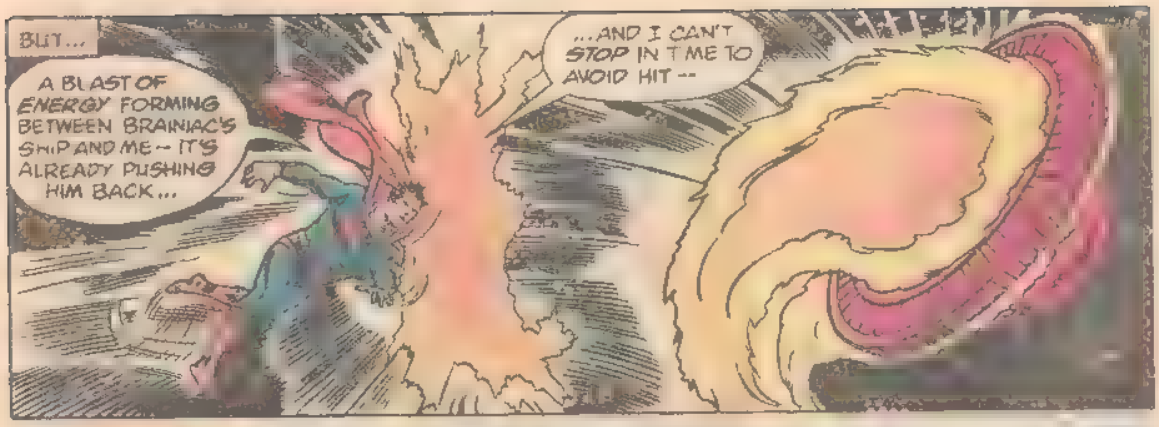
THAT IS WHY I HAVE COME FOR YOUR AID. YOU WHO WERE FOR SO LONG MY ENEMY--
--YOU, WHOM I BUILT THAT DEVICE TO DESTROY.
I NEED YOU BESIDE ME NOW, SUPERMAN. YOU WILL HELP ME?
OF COURSE, BRAINIAC ...WE'RE FRIENDS NOW, FIGHTING FOR A COMMON GOAL!
NO, SUPERMAN, BUT I HOPE AND PRAY WITH WHATEVER SOUL A COMPUTER MAY HAVE--
--THAT SOMEDAY I EARN THE HONOR TO TRULY CALL YOU FRIEND.
WITHIN MY MACHINE IS ITS ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING --TO RETURN TO YOUR EARTH AND DESTROY IT AND YOU.
HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE?
ONE OF YOUR EARTH DAYS, PERHAPS LESS!
THE MACHINE IS ALREADY THE SIZE OF A LARGE MOON. ITS GRAVITY WILL BEGIN TO DESTROY YOUR WORLD LONG BEFORE IT REACHES IT!
THEN THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE, IS THERE?
I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO, BRAINIAC --
--AND, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I'LL DESTROY THAT MACHINE!
WITHIN HIS SHIP, BRAINIAC IS GRIM HE FEARS HIS NEW FRIEND WILL FIND THAT NOT QUITE SO EASY AS HE BELIEVES


...A FACT THAT EVEN SUPERMAN QUICKLY COMPREHENDS ..
I CAN FEEL THE INCREDIBLE SUCTION DRAWING ME IN ALONG WITH THESE PLANETARY FRAGMENTS...
.. I CAN BARELY CONTROL MY FLIGHT-PATH!
BRAINIAC, ARE YOU MONITORING ME?
I AM ..RADIO TRANSMISSION IS PERFECT!
BE CAREFUL NOW-- DO NOT LET MY MACHINE ABSORB YOU, OR YOU WILL BE LOST IN THERE FOREVER!
'OOOOPS! EASIER SAID THAN DONE!
THE PRESSURE'S INCREASING ..ALMOST AS IF IT SENSES I'M HERE!
I-I'M LIKE A LEAF CAUGHT IN A WINDSTORM!
TROUBLE IS, THERE'S NO FRICTION IN SPACE, NOTHING TO SLOW ME DOWN!
HURRY, SUPERMAN! MY COMPUTERS SAY THE MACHINE IS SLOWLY TURNING ITSELF BACK ON!
IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO REVERSE MY HEADLONG PLUNGE WITHOUT OUTSIDE --HOLD IT!
WHAT IS IT, SUPERMAN?
I'VE GRABBED ONTO A PROJECTION OF SOME KIND.. I MAY BE ABLE TO USE IT TO KICK OFF ...PUSH ME OUT OF HERE!
WHEN IT IS FULLY FUNCTIONAL, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND ITS FULL SPHONING PRESSURE
9

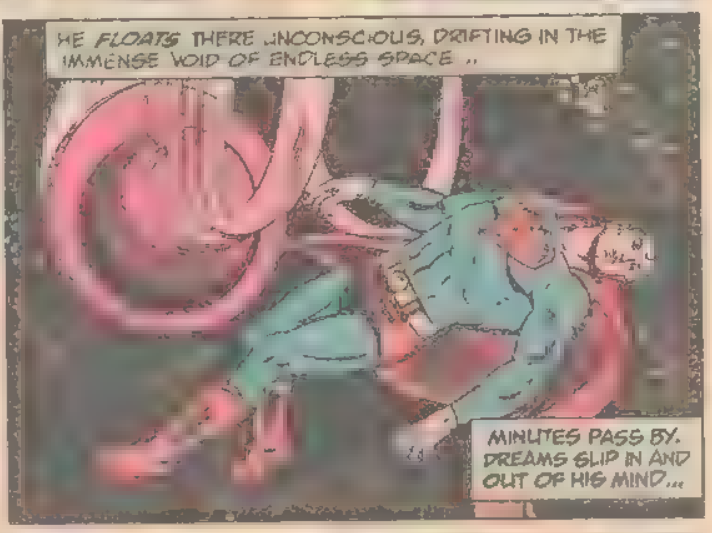
The FLASH®
IN
"MARATHON MADMAN"
I EXPECT TO SEE YOU RUNNING YOUR FASTEST IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MARATHON TOMORROW, BARRY.
GEE, IT'S GONNA BE HARD FOR ME, THE FLASH, TO SLOW DOWN!
NEXT DAY... AT THE RACE
SOMETHING FISHY IS GOING ON UP THERE. THE FLASH BETTER HAVE A LOOK.
DR. SORCERY! HIS PHILOSOPHER'S STONE HAS WEAKENED THE STEEL BEAMS OF THE BRIDGE!
THAT OUGHT TO MAKE THE RACE MORE CHALLENGING!
HERE'S SOMETHING THAT OUGHT TO CHALLENGE YOUR TASTE BUDS, DR. SORCERY, WHILE I SEE IF I CAN GET THIS BRIDGE TO BE A BRIDGE AGAIN.
HOSTESS® CUP CAKES. WHAT CHEMISTRY! WHAT TASTE! RICH CHOCOLATY CAKE. RICH CHOCOLATY ICING!
PLENTY MORE AT THE FINISH LINE, DOC... BUT YOU CAN'T GET THERE UNLESS YOU HELP ME FIX THE BRIDGE.
FINISH LINE
YOU WON, FLASH! HOSTESS CUP CAKES MAKE THIS A RACE WORTH FINISHING.
SPEAKING OF FINISHING, IF WE'RE GOING TO WAIT FOR BARRY ALLEN TO FINISH, WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO ENJOY OUR HOSTESS CUP CAKES.
ALL CHARACTERS © DC COMICS INC 1981
®HOSTESS IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF CONTINENTAL BAKING COMPANY

THEN, WITH ENOUGH FORCE TO PUSH A SMALL MOON FROM ITS ORBIT, SUPERMAN KICKS FORWARD, AND...
N-NO USE! I'M BEING DRAWN BACK!
I HAVEN'T GOT THE STRENGTH NECESSARY TO FLY MYSELF FREE!
SPACE IS SILENT, SO THERE IS NO AUDIBLE WARNING OF THE MENACE WHICH SUDDENLY SPRINGS FORTH...
BUT STILL, SOMEHOW, SUPERMAN SENSES DANGER EVEN THOUGH THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HE CAN DO TO STOP IT..
A WHIRLWIND FORMING FROM THE MACHINE'S CORE!
IT'S DRAGGING ME IN!
BRAINIAC!!
BY THE SEVEN CIRCUITS! SUPERMAN - YOU MUST GRAB HOLD OF SOMETHING!
I'M TRYING BUT EVERYWHERE I TURN--
- I'M PELTED WITH ROCKS PUSHED FURTHER INTO THIS ... THING!
WAIT! - THERE'S A SEAM IN THE CONSTRUCTION - I'VE GOT IT, BUT THE PRESSURE'S INCREASING...
ARGGHHH! IT'S PULLING ME BACK! SHEER AGONY TO HOLD ON... BUT I'VE GOT TO.
...GOT TO HOLD, AND CLIMB MY WAY OUT OF HERE.
...SEAM AFTER BLASTED SEAM, EACH ONE A HANDHOLD...
PAINFULLY, SLOWLY, INEXORABLY, THE MAN OF STEEL CRAWLS FORWARD! HE IS IMPOSSIBLY STRONG, BUT IS HE STRONG ENOUGH?
10

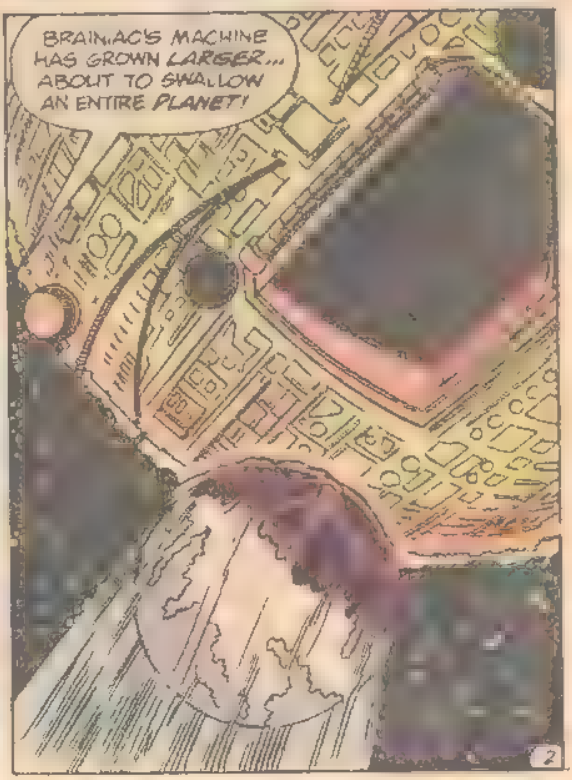
GREAT, JUST GREAT! THE MACHINE'S NOW CREATING SOLAR STORMS TO DISLODGE ME!
BUT I WON'T LET IT PULL ME BACK!
I'M MOVING FORWARD, MOVING TOWARD THE EXIT ... AND IT'S NOT GOING TO STOP ME ...
NOTHING'S GOING TO STOP ME!
NOTHING!!
ONCE AGAIN HE BRACES HIS LEGS ... HE KICKS BACKWARD WITH ALL HIS PHENOMENAL STRENGTH ...
...BUT THIS KICK FREES HIM FROM THE MACHINE'S DEADLY GRASP ...
OUT, BUT STILL NO CLOSER TO STOPPING THAT DEVICE!
TROUBLE IS, IF IT WAS JUST TURNING ITSELF ON, HOW CAN I POSSIBLY STOP IT WHEN IT'S TOTALLY ACTIVATED?
WE WILL WORK THAT OUT TOGETHER, SUPERMAN.
WITH A PRESS OF A CONSOLE BUTTON, BRAINIAC OPENS HIS SHIP'S AIRLOCK ...
WHATEVER IT TAKES, WE'LL DO IT AS A TEAM!

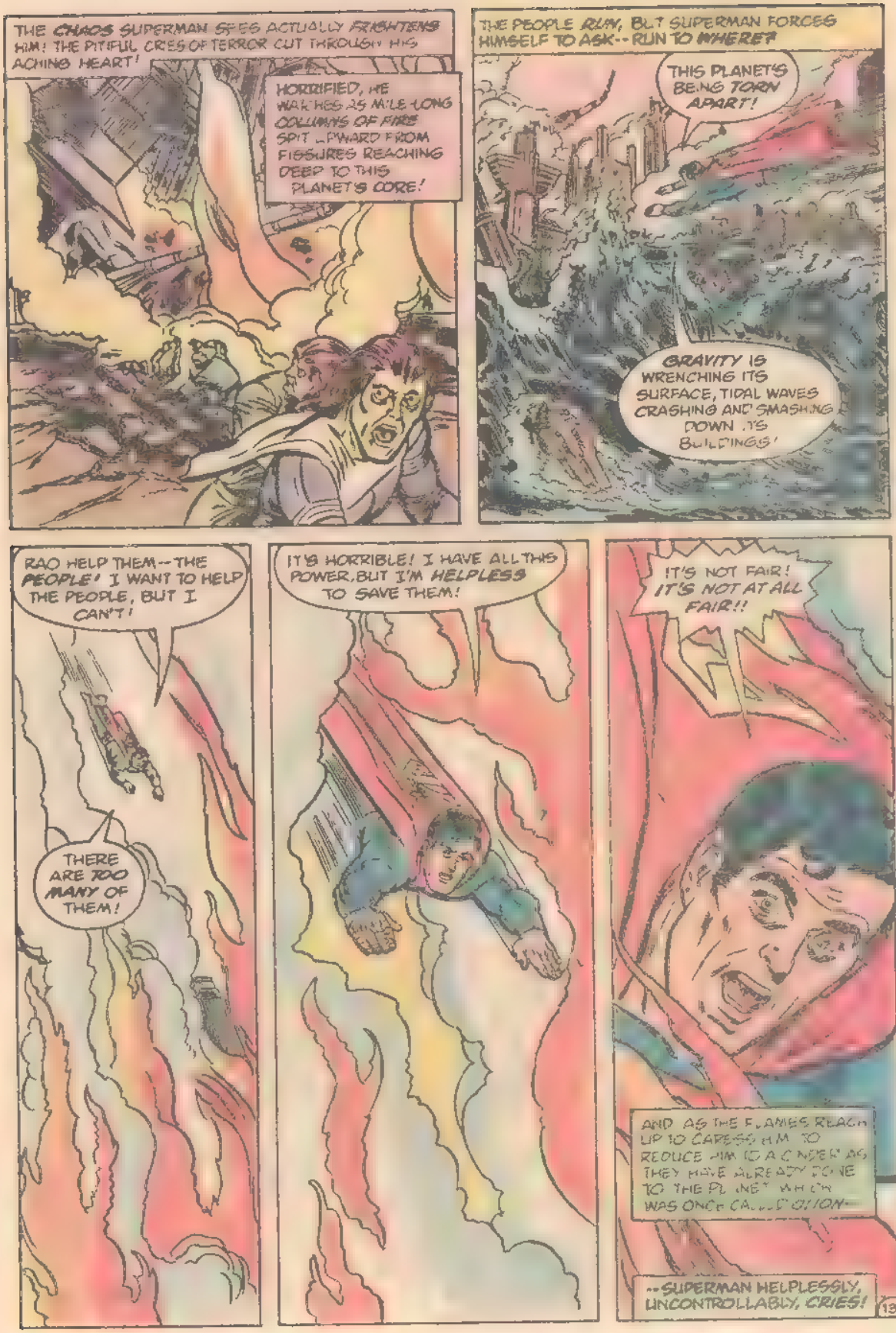

BUT...
A BLAST OF ENERGY FORMING BETWEEN BRAINIAC'S SHIP AND ME -- IT'S ALREADY PUSHING HIM BACK...
...AND I CAN'T STOP IN TIME TO AVOID HIT --

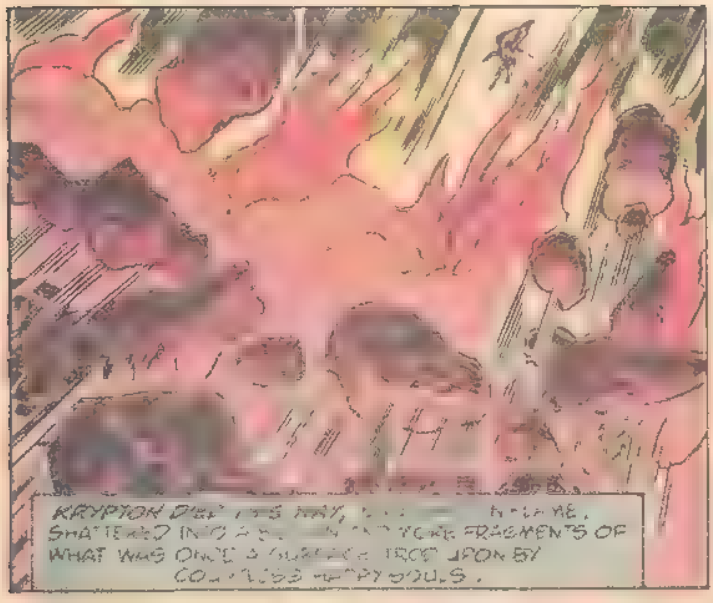
MY MACHINE... TRYING TO KEEP SUPERMAN FROM REACHING ME!
WHAT HAS IT DONE TO HIM? WHAT?!?


HE FLOATS THERE UNCONSCIOUS, DRIFTING IN THE IMMENSE VOID OF ENDLESS SPACE...
MINUTES PASS BY. DREAMS SLIP IN AND OUT OF HIS MIND...

BUT WHEN HE OPENS HIS STEEL-BLUE EYES, THOSE DREAMS BECOME HARSH, CRUEL NIGHTMARES...
GREAT KRYPTON!

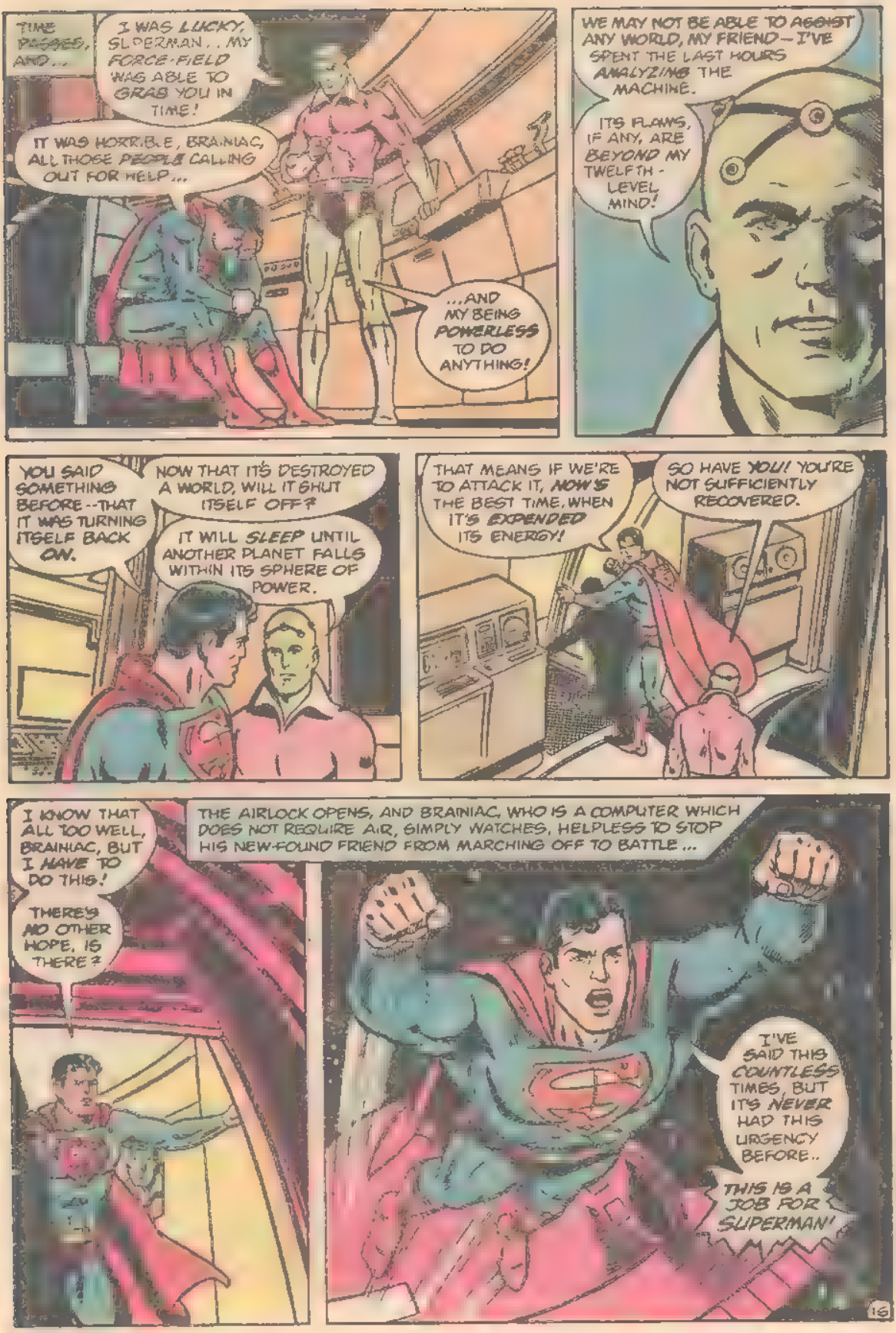

BRAINIAC'S MACHINE HAS GROWN LARGER... ABOUT TO SWALLOW AN ENTIRE PLANET!

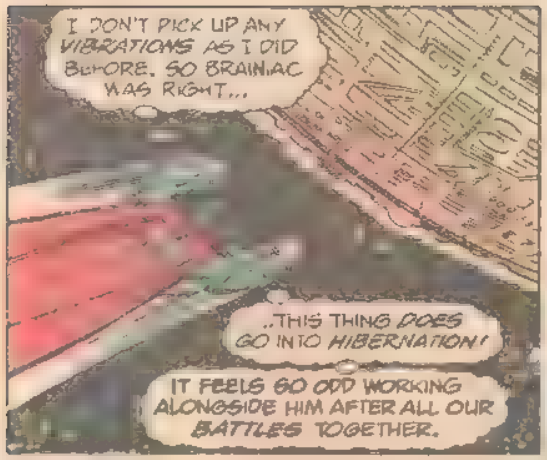

THE CHAOS SUPERMAN SEES ACTUALLY FRIGHTENS HIM! THE PITIFUL CRIES OF TERROR CUT THROUGH HIS ACHING HEART!
HORRIFIED, HE WALKS AS MILE-LONG COLUMNS OF FIRE SPIT UPWARD FROM FISSURES REACHING DEEP TO THIS PLANET'S CORE!
THE PEOPLE RUN, BUT SUPERMAN FORCES HIMSELF TO ASK--RUN TO WHERE?
THIS PLANET'S BEING TORN APART!
GRAVITY IS WRENCHING ITS SURFACE, TIDAL WAVES CRASHING AND SMASHING DOWN ..ITS BUILDINGS!
RAO HELP THEM--THE PEOPLE! I WANT TO HELP THE PEOPLE, BUT I CAN'T!
THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM!
IT'S HORRIBLE! I HAVE ALL THIS POWER, BUT I'M HELPLESS TO SAVE THEM!
IT'S NOT FAIR! IT'S NOT AT ALL FAIR!!
AND AS THE FLAMES REACH UP TO CARESS HIM TO REDUCE HIM TO ASHES AS THEY HAVE ALREADY DONE TO THE PLANET WHICH WAS ONCE CALLED KRYPTON--
--SUPERMAN HELPLESSLY, UNCONTROLLABLY, CRIES!

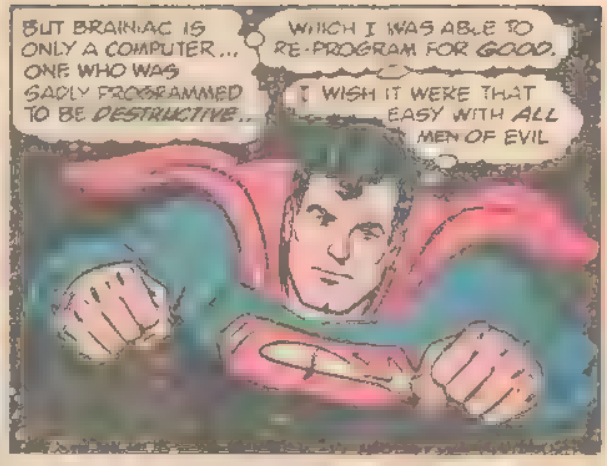

KRYPTON DIED THIS WAY, AND THOUGH SUPERMAN WAS TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND THAT ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION HE MORE THAN UNDERSTANDS NOW!

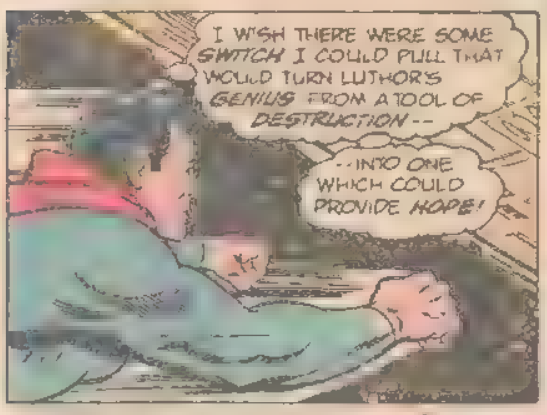
KRYPTON DIED THIS WAY, AND SUPERMAN IS TOO NUMB WITH HORROR TO EVEN RESIST AS HE IS CARRIED AWAY WITH THE FLOTSAM AND JETSOM OF THIS UNIVERSAL OCEAN
... CARRIED AWAY TOWARD THE BONE-STRUCK PLANET'S RED AND BLASTED
FILLED WITH GRIEF FOR THE COUNTLESS LIVES LOST, HE OFFERS NO RESISTANCE

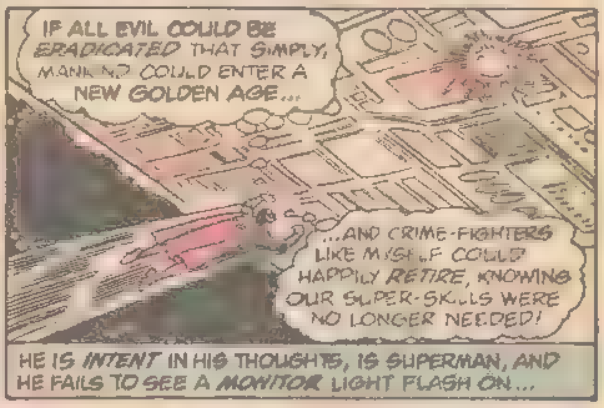
HE SIMPLY RISES, HELPLESS, POWERLESS TO RESIST EVEN IF THERE WERE ANYTHING LEFT WITHIN HIM TO OFFER RESISTANCE.
HE HAS DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO SAVING LIVES, AND HE HAS JUST WITNESSED THE NEEDLESS DEATH OF UNTOLD MILLIONS.
HORROR SHATTERS HIS WILL.
AN... AS A MOTE OF DUST CAUGHT IN THE PULL OF A VAST SUN, HE FINDS HIMSELF DRAGGED...
...TOWARD A DARK INFINITY.
...THERE ARE OTHERS--
WHO CAN RESIST
...AND DO!

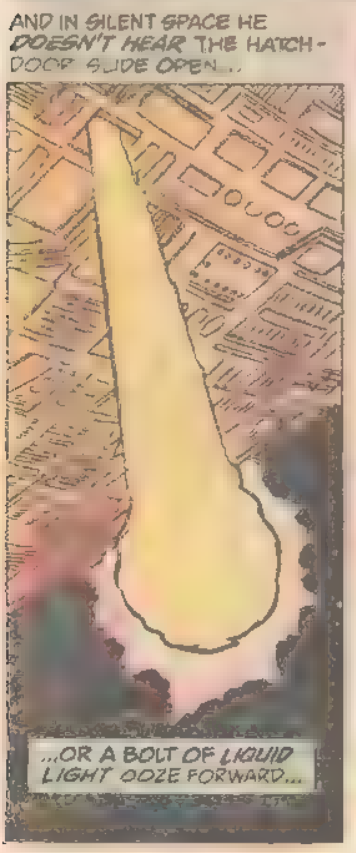

TIME PASSES, AND...
I WAS LUCKY, SUPERMAN... MY FORCE-FIELD WAS ABLE TO GRAB YOU IN TIME!
IT WAS HORRIBLE, BRAINIAC, ALL THOSE PEOPLE CALLING OUT FOR HELP...
...AND MY BEING POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING!
WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO AGGIST ANY WORLD, MY FRIEND — I'VE SPENT THE LAST HOURS ANALYZING THE MACHINE.
ITS FLAWS, IF ANY, ARE BEYOND MY TWELFTH-LEVEL MIND!
YOU SAID SOMETHING BEFORE --THAT IT WAS TURNING ITSELF BACK ON.
NOW THAT IT'S DESTROYED A WORLD, WILL IT SHUT ITSELF OFF?
IT WILL SLEEP UNTIL ANOTHER PLANET FALLS WITHIN ITS SPHERE OF POWER.
THAT MEANS IF WE'RE TO ATTACK IT, NOW'S THE BEST TIME, WHEN IT'S EXPENDED ITS ENERGY!
SO HAVE YOU! YOU'RE NOT SUFFICIENTLY RECOVERED.
I KNOW THAT ALL TOO WELL, BRAINIAC, BUT I HAVE TO DO THIS!
THERE'S NO OTHER HOPE, IS THERE?
THE AIRLOCK OPENS, AND BRAINIAC, WHO IS A COMPUTER WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE AIR, SIMPLY WATCHES, HELPLESS TO STOP HIS NEW-FOUND FRIEND FROM MARCHING OFF TO BATTLE...
I'VE SAID THIS COUNTLESS TIMES, BUT IT'S NEVER HAD THIS URGENCY BEFORE..
THIS IS A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!
16

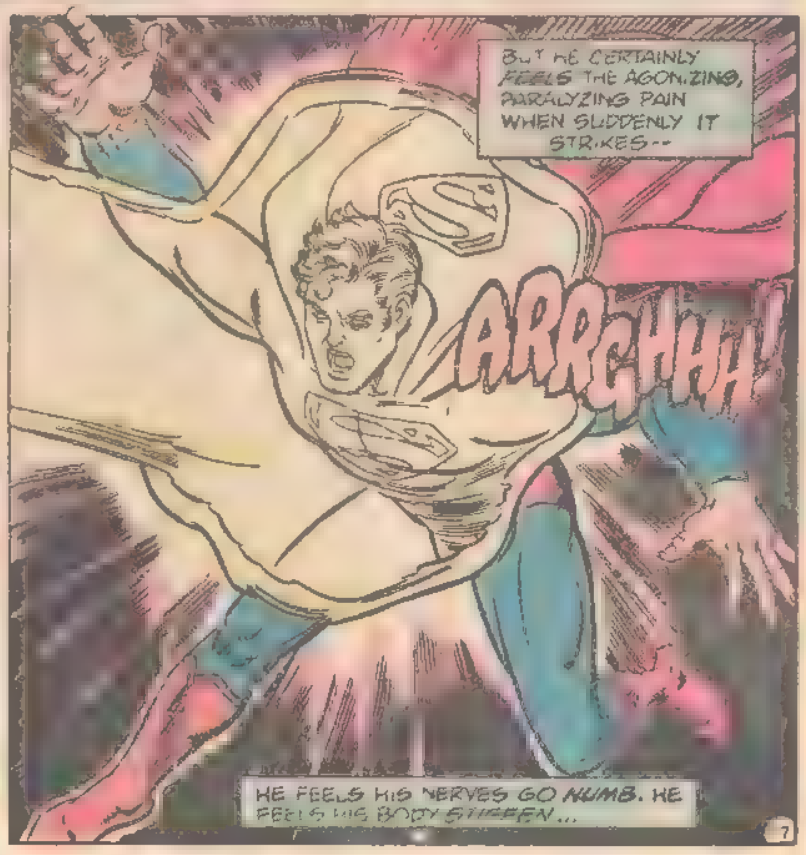

I DON'T PICK UP ANY VIBRATIONS AS I DID BEFORE. SO BRAINIAC WAS RIGHT...
..THIS THING DOES GO INTO HIBERNATION!
IT FEELS SO ODD WORKING ALONGSIDE HIM AFTER ALL OUR BATTLES TOGETHER.


BUT BRAINIAC IS ONLY A COMPUTER... ONE WHO WAS SADLY PROGRAMMED TO BE DESTRUCTIVE..
WHICH I WAS ABLE TO RE-PROGRAM FOR GOOD.
I WISH IT WERE THAT EASY WITH ALL MEN OF EVIL


I WISH THERE WERE SOME SWITCH I COULD PULL THAT WOULD TURN LUTHOR'S GENIUS FROM A TOOL OF DESTRUCTION --
--INTO ONE WHICH COULD PROVIDE HOPE!


IF ALL EVIL COULD BE ERADICATED THAT SIMPLY, MANKIND COULD ENTER A NEW GOLDEN AGE...
...AND CRIME-FIGHTERS LIKE MYSELF COULD HAPPILY RETIRE, KNOWING OUR SUPER-SKILLS WERE NO LONGER NEEDED!
HE IS INTENT IN HIS THOUGHTS, IS SUPERMAN, AND HE FAILS TO SEE A MONITOR LIGHT FLASH ON...


AND IN SILENT SPACE HE DOESN'T HEAR THE HATCH-DOOR SLIDE OPEN...
...OR A BOLT OF LIQUID LIGHT OOZE FORWARD...


BUT HE CERTAINLY FEELS THE AGONIZING, PARALYZING PAIN WHEN SUDDENLY IT STRIKES--
ARRGHHH!
HE FEELS HIS NERVES GO NUMB. HE FEELS HIS BODY STIFFEN...

WHILE, WITHIN BRAINIAC'S SHIP...
EVEN SLEEPING MY MACHINE WAS A SILENT SENTINEL. IT PROTECTED ITSELF FROM ATTACK.
BUT WHAT WORRIES ME, IS WHAT HAPPENED TO SUPERMAN?
WHAT HAPPENED TO SUPERMAN?!?
WHAT HAPPENED, BRAINIAC? IN AN INSTANT, THE MAN OF STEEL FOUND HIMSELF UNCEREMONIOUSLY FLUNG HALFWAY ACROSS THE GALAXY...
...WHERE HE SPINS OUT OF CONTROL TOWARD A BLUE-GREEN WORLD WHICH WOULD CERTAINLY BE FAMILIAR IF THE MAN OF TOMORROW WERE CONSCIOUS.
HE BURNS HIS WAY THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE..
...AND PLUNGES DEEP INTO THE CASPIAN SEA.
18
CONTINUED ON PAGE 20...KING

©1991 Monogram Models, Inc. All rights reserved. Brush sold separately. Paint and glue not included.

NINE HOURS PASS AND IN AN APARTMENT IN METROPOLIS...
..WE CAN'T LET MORGAN EDGE SELL THE PLANET, NOT WITHOUT A FIGHT!
I KNOW WE CAN'T, LOIS, BUT CLARK WAS RIGHT--WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?
BZZZ-BZZ
HOLD ON, THE DOORBELL! MAYBE CLARK DECIDED TO SHOW!
CLARK? PARTIALLY CORRECT, JIMMY OLSEN...
SUPERMAN?
WH-WHAT'S WRONG?
HE SEEMS NORMAL INSTEAD...
GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST!
THUD
AND ACROSS THIS GREAT GLOBE OF OURS CERTAIN EVENTS THAT MAY VERY WELL SPELL THE END OF THE PLANET EARTH BEGIN TO BREW.
BRAINIAC SAID TIDAL WAVES WOULD BE THE FIRST SIGN...
..AND EARTHQUAKES WOULD SHOOK HOLLOW..
THE MACHINES MOVING CLOSER TO EARTH...IT'S GRAVITATIONAL TUG IS ABOUT TO CAUSE DISASTER!
BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO SUPERMAN?
WHERE IS SUPERMAN?
NEXT ISSUE "I HAVE TWO EYES, BUT I CANNOT SEE!"

THE SON OF A LIGHTHOUSE-KEEPER AND A WOMAN EXILED FROM SUNKEN ATLANTIS, *ARTHUR CURRY* GREW TO MANHOOD WITH THE POWER TO COMMAND ALL FORMS OF SEA-LIFE! TODAY HE IS THE KING OF THE SEVEN SEAS, THE *MARINE MARVEL* KNOWN AS ...

AQUAMAN

ONE MOMENT AGO SOMEWHERE OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN...

WITH THE AID OF *GREEN LANTERN* AND *AIR WAVE*, AQUAMAN IS ABOUT TO EMBARK ON A BIZARRE JOURNEY INTO THE *UNKNOWN*...

I'M ALL SET TO *GO*, AIR WAVE.. AS SOON AS YOU ENERGIZE ME!

I HOPE YOU FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THAT SEA-WORLD THAN I DID WHEN I WAS TELEPORTED THERE, AQUA-MAN!

SAFE JOURNEY FOR YOU AND THE MARINE CREATURE YOU'RE BRINGING BACK TO ITS NATIVE WORLD!

HERE I...

...GO!

GREAT NEPTUNE! THIS TRIP TOOK LESS TIME THAN A *JUSTICE LEAGUE* TRANSPORTER RIDE!

NOW TO FIND OUT WHERE IN THE UNIVERSE I AM!

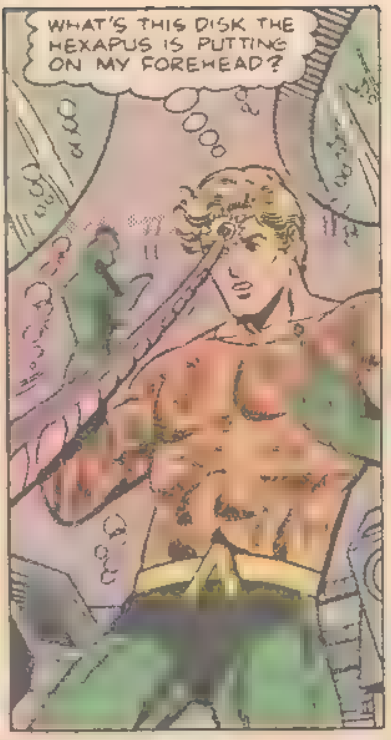
THAT ANSWER WILL BE FORTHCOMING VERY SOON, AQUAMAN--BUT YOU MAY NOT LIKE IT AS YOU MEET THE...

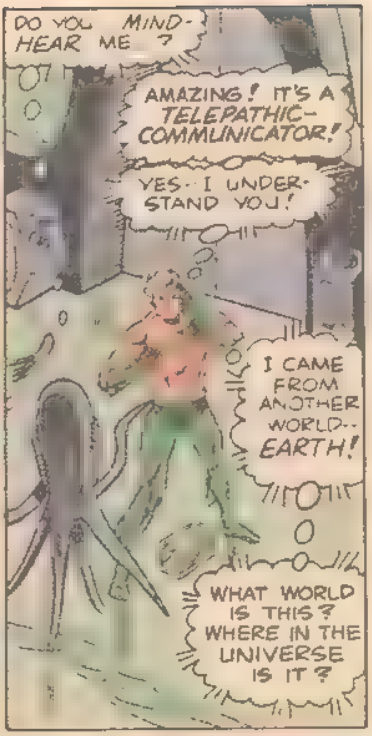
LAND-MASTERS OF THE SEAS

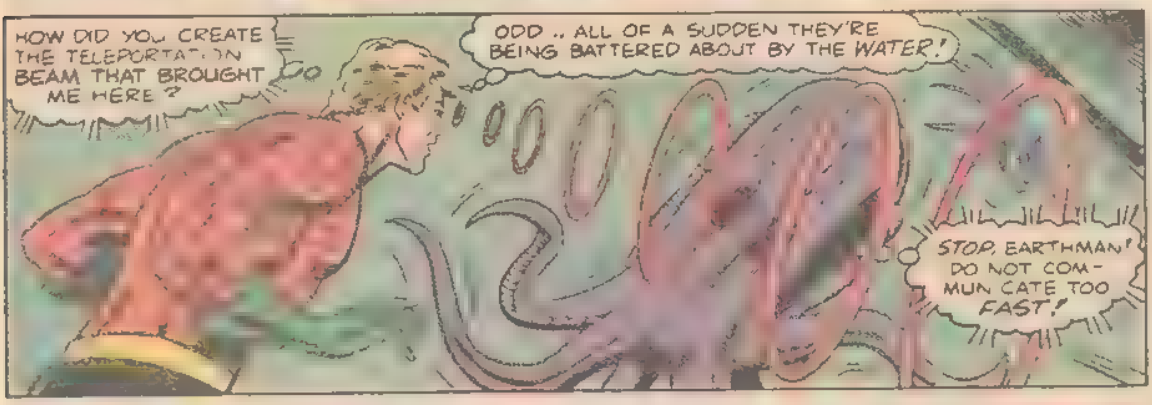
S-3173

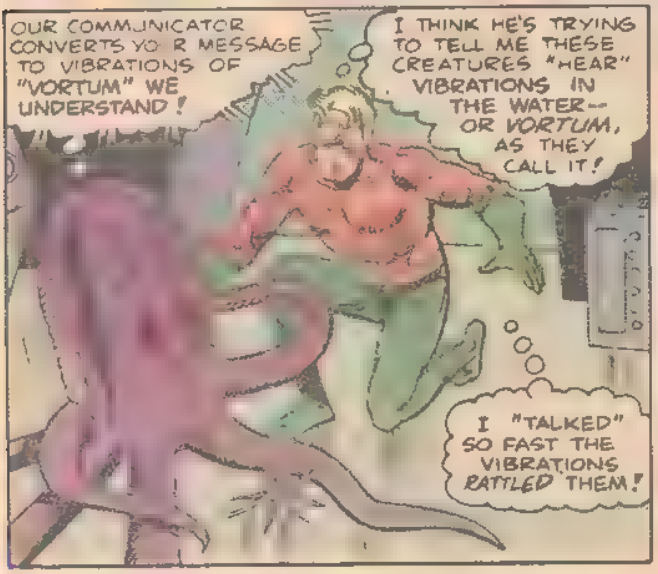
BOB RozAKIS -WRITER-	ALEX SAVIUK -PENCILLER-	F. CHIARAMONTE -INKER-	PHIL FELIX -LETTERER-	TOM ZIUKO -COLORIST-	JULIUS SCHWARTZ -EDITOR-

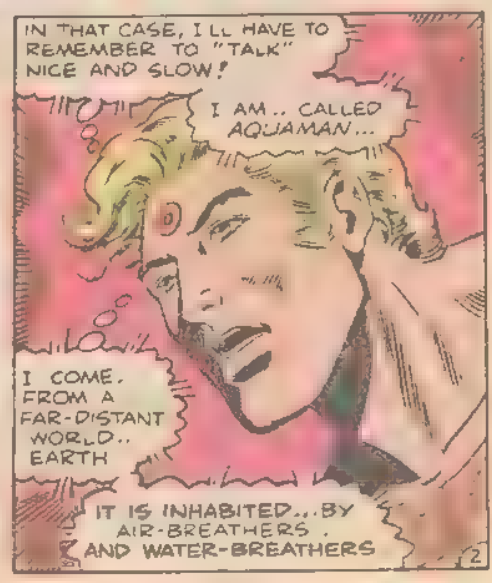
THE HEXAPUS I BROUGHT HERE APPEARS TO BE COMMUNICAT NG WITH THE BIGGER ONE! IT MUST BE THE SAME ONE A.R WAVE MET HERE!
TOO BAD MY TELEPATHIC POWERS CAN'T "HEAR" WHAT THEY'RE SAYING!

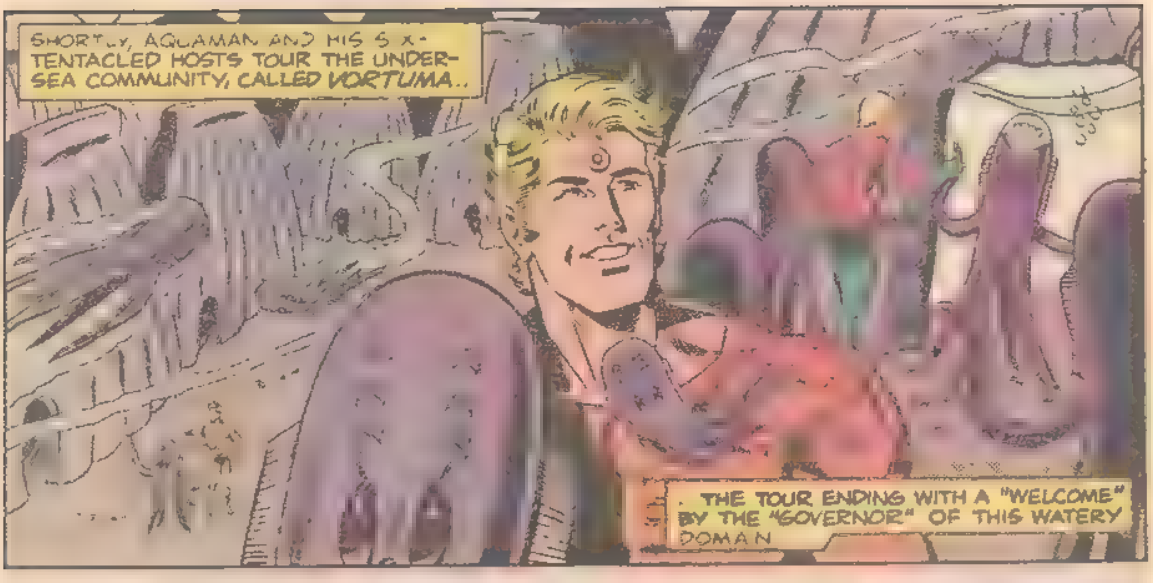

WHAT'S THIS DISK THE HEXAPUS IS PUTTING ON MY FOREHEAD?

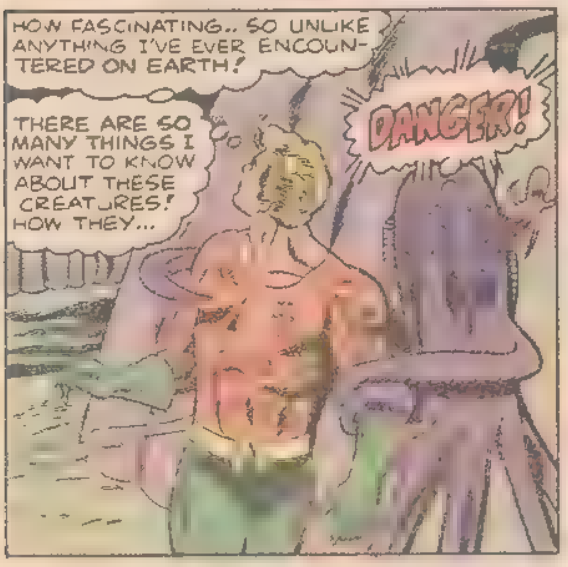

DO YOU MIND-HEAR ME ?
AMAZING! IT'S A TELEPATHIC-COMMUNICATOR!
YES. I UNDER-STAND YOU!
I CAME FROM ANOTHER WORLD.. EARTH!
WHAT WORLD IS THIS? WHERE IN THE UNIVERSE IS IT?


HOW DID YOU CREATE THE TELEPORTATION BEAM THAT BROUGHT ME HERE ?
ODD .. ALL OF A SUDDEN THEY'RE BEING BATTERED ABOUT BY THE WATER!
STOP, EARTHMAN! DO NOT COM-MUN CATE TOO FAST!


OUR COMMUNICATOR CONVERTS YOUR MESSAGE TO VIBRATIONS OF "VORTUM" WE UNDERSTAND!
I THINK HE'S TRYING TO TELL ME THESE CREATURES "HEAR" VIBRATIONS IN THE WATER-- OR VORTUM, AS THEY CALL IT!
I "TALKED" SO FAST THE VIBRATIONS RATTLED THEM!

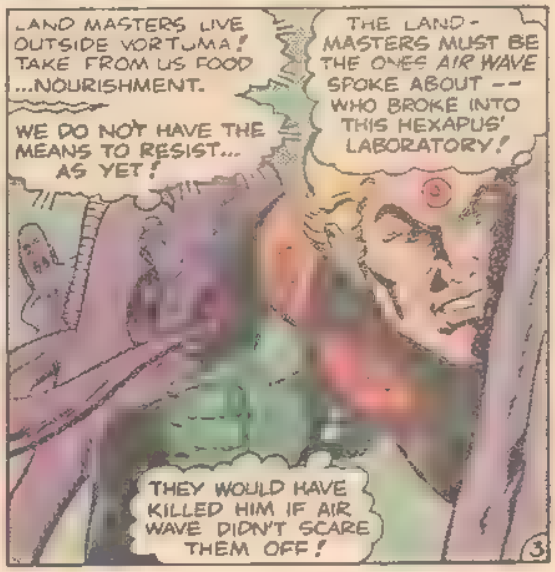

IN THAT CASE, I'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER TO "TALK" NICE AND SLOW!
I AM .. CALLED AQUAMAN...
I COME FROM A FAR-DISTANT WORLD.. EARTH
IT IS INHABITED... BY AIR-BREATHERS AND WATER-BREATHERS


SHORTLY, AQUAMAN AND HIS 6 X-TENTACLED HOSTS TOUR THE UNDER-SEA COMMUNITY, CALLED VORTUMA..
. THE TOUR ENDING WITH A "WELCOME" BY THE "GOVERNOR" OF THIS WATERY DOMAIN


HOW FASCINATING.. SO UNLIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER ENCOUN-TERED ON EARTH!
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THESE CREATURES! HOW THEY...
DANGER!

BEING DRAGGED INTO THIS SHELL-BUILDING?!
WHAT DANGER... DO YOU FEAR?

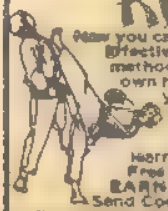
THE LAND-MASTERS! THEY WOULD KILL ONE SUCH AS YOU!
AND THEN US FOR HARBORING ONE SUCH AS YOU!
"LAND-MASTERS"? EXPLAIN...PLEASE!


LAND MASTERS LIVE OUTSIDE VORTUMA! TAKE FROM US FOOD ...NOURISHMENT.
WE DO NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO RESIST... AS YET!
THE LAND-MASTERS MUST BE THE ONES AIR WAVE SPOKE ABOUT -- WHO BROKE INTO THIS HEXAPUS' LABORATORY!
THEY WOULD HAVE KILLED HIM IF AIR WAVE DIDN'T SCARE THEM OFF!
3

THE LAND-MASTERS SUSPECT THAT I WILL LEAD MY FELLOW-BEINGS FROM BONDAGE!
I'VE HEARD THAT STORY BEFORE.. ON MY WORLD!
LOOK! THEY ARE DRAGGING OUT OUR GOVERNOR...TO PUNISH HIM FOR ENCOURAGING OUR REVOLT!
WELL, I'M NOT...STANDING IDLY BY...AS THEY BEAT HIM UP!
NO! DO NOT INTERFERE!
GREETINGS FROM THE PLANET EARTH!
WHAT'S THAT GESTURE MEAN? IS THAT LAND-MASTER HOLDING OUT HIS FIST IN THE HOPES I'LL RAM MY HEAD INTO IT?
THOUGHT NOT!
HE'S WHIPPING UP A MINIATURE WHIRLPOOL! GOT TO SWIM OUT OF ITS WAY!
SWOOSH
4

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

KUNG-FU



Now you can learn the Worlds Most Effective self defense and attack method in the privacy of your own home. Our course teaches you to: kick, punch and throw, 1 or more opponents...as well as kung fu and gun defenses • A so learn Martial Arts Weapons! Free Brick Breaking Course! EARN YOUR BLACK BELT! Send Coupon & 25¢ For Details

American Southwest Academy of Fighting Arts
Suite 804/M-58, Dept. DC
323 Franklin Blvd. S. -Chicago, IL 60606

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

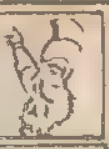
COMIC BOOKS

1940 to 1978
over 100,000 in stock
50¢ for complete list
Robert Bell, Box 8326
Coral Springs, Fla. 33065

SELF DEFENSE

KUNG-FU • KARATE
Learn unbeatable fighting power
BLACK BELT INSTRUCTORS
NEW HOME STUDY COURSE
SEND 25¢ FOR DETAILS
CERTIFICATE AWARDED
NEW ORIENT KARATE SCHOOL
Dept. N21 Box 5 Avon, N.J. 07717

Learn to draw your
OWN SUPERHEROES 2.00
• Big easy & 8½ 21¢ ea
Box 2
S D Art Company E. Islip, NY 11730



TROPICAL FISH

PLANTS & SUPPLIES
Sent quickly across USA & Canada
Send 25¢ for 1,000-item aquarium catalog.
Aqua Discount 233 Mill Ontario Mi 48462

POEMS SET TO MUSIC

Let our staff of professional songwriters turn your words into a song. Send your best poems for prompt recordings. Nom. FREE EXAMINATION
Songs recorded - phonograph records made
NASHVILLE MUSIC PRODUCTIONS
Box 40091, Studio 14, Nash., Tn. 37204

GOLDEN STATE COMICS

Send 25¢ for comics selling list and FREE protective comic bag.
4666 Boundary, San Diego, CA 92116
or visit our store

MYSTERY NUMBER CARDS
Amaze your friends! Guess the number they have selected. Send $1.00 for your set to: [illegible] Box 849
Bolchertown, Ind. 31047

IMPRESS FRIENDS!

BOARD BREAKING AND FIGHTING TECHNIQUES
EASY STEP BY STEP
BLACK BELT INSTRUCTIONS
Only $5.00 MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
KARATE P.O. Box 568 Denison, Tx. 75020

PRESS AND MAKE PERFECTS

Make Big Money At Home Business! Hobby
For Easy Instructions, Send $3.00 To
Stanley Dept. D
1525 North First St., San Jose, CA 95112

COLLECTORS Problems Finding That Special Comic? We Have Thousands Of Comics Competitively Priced For List Send 25¢ (Refundable With 1st Order) To: K&R COMICS 2135 Delkia Drive, Dubuque, Iowa 52001

FREE ADMISSION!
COMIC BOOK MARKETPLACE
STATLER HOTEL NEW YORK CITY
33rd Street & Seventh Avenue
ON THESE SUNDAYS:
AUG. 16 SEPT. 20 OCT. 4
NOV. 22 DEC. 6
Thousands of OLD & NEW Comics on Sale!
FREE ADMISSION!

Play your favorite game through the mail. Make new friends. Join the American Postal Game Society. Now beginning play in Chess, Checkers, Pool Checkers, and Othello.* Nine man sections. Send $6.50 per section. $10 for two sections — mix or match to APGS, P.O. Box 6146, South Bend, Indiana 46660

*Registered TM of Gabriel Industries Inc.

MAGIC!

SPECIAL MAGICIAN'S CARD DECK WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR 12 AMAZING TRICKS!
SEND $4.00 TO:
GLADSTONE HOUSE OF MAGIC
P.O. BOX 368 GLADSTONE, N.J. 07934

"America's Greatest Family Newspaper Since 1882"

Earn their own spending money
Earn neat prizes
Gain practical business experience

GRIT Will Help You Start Your Own Business

You can be among the thousands of boys and girls in small cities and towns all across America who earn their own spending money every week by introducing GRIT to their family, friends and neighbors. GRIT will help you get started in a profitable business of your own by sending you papers, all the supplies you'll need, and suggestions on how and where to begin. GRIT will assist you in every way to make this a happy, successful and profitable venture. HURRY! SIGN UP NOW.

State law requires carriers and girls to be 10 years or older, 12 years or older in the states of AL, DE, LA, MA, MD, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, VA and WI.

Papers sent only to the Continental U.S.

**** Fill Out and Mail This Coupon in An Envelope Today ****

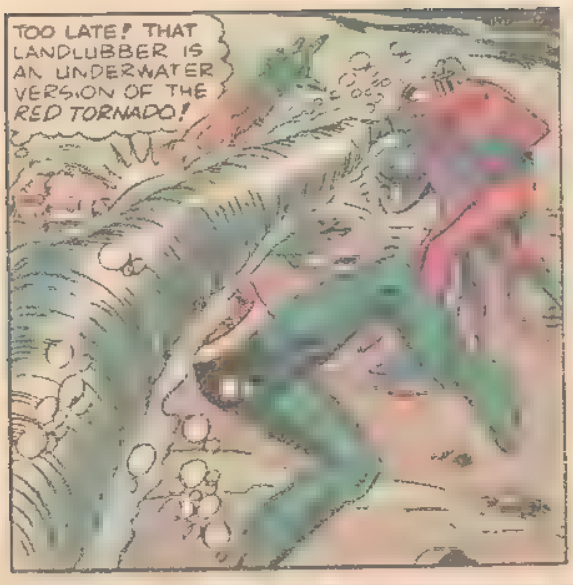
GRIT PUBLISHING CO., Williamsport, PA 17701

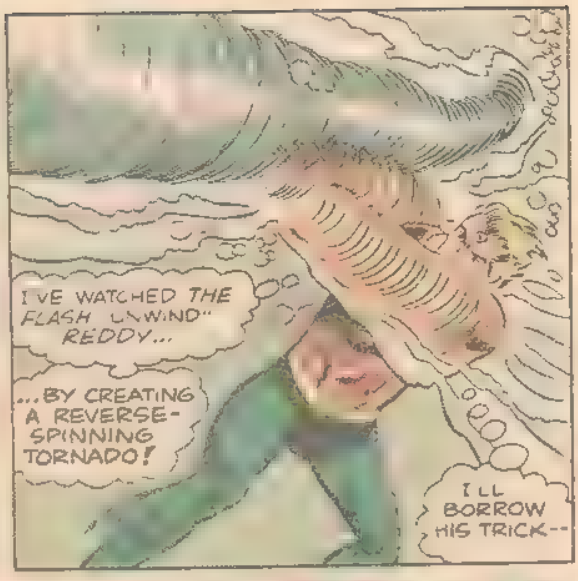
Please send me all the details and _____ copies each week to start my own GRIT route. NC-111

(mom)
Name _____
In Care of _____
Address _____
Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Age _____ Date of Birth _____
Month Day Year

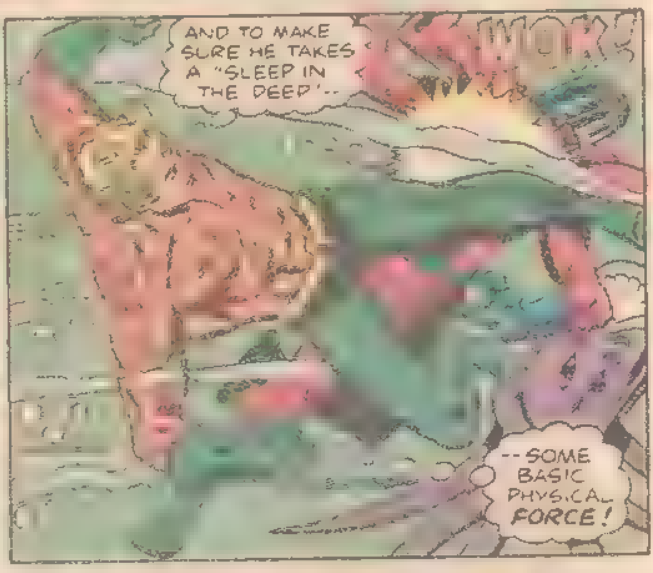
☐ Male ☐ Female Please Print Your Last Name Plainly Below

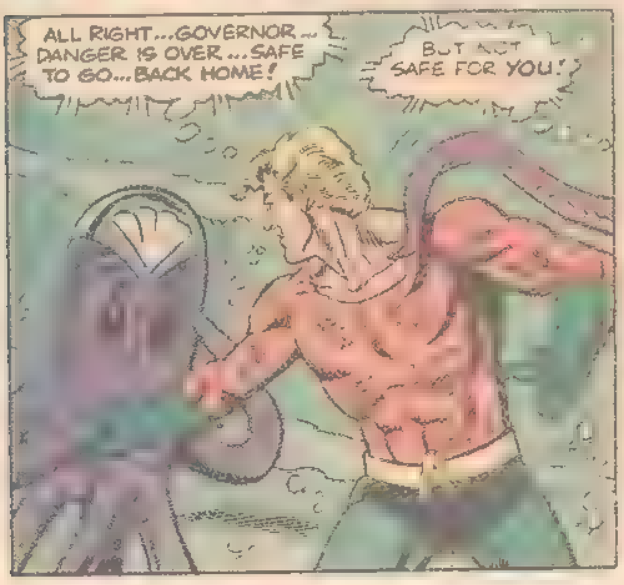
Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

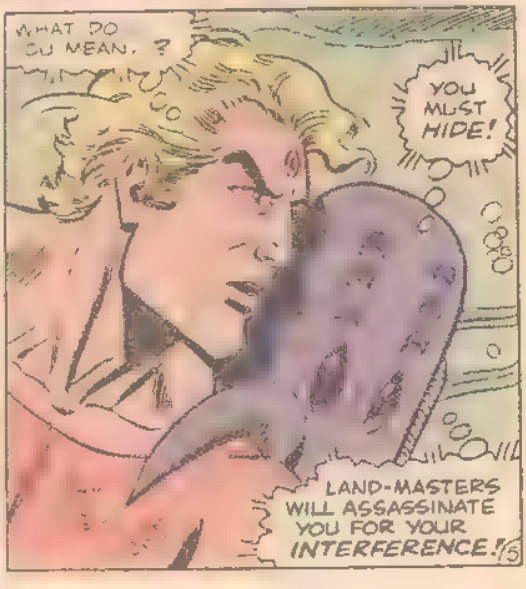

TOO LATE! THAT LANDLUBBER IS AN UNDERWATER VERSION OF THE RED TORNADO!


I'VE WATCHED THE FLASH UNWIND" REDDY...
...BY CREATING A REVERSE-SPINNING TORNADO!
I'LL BORROW HIS TRICK--

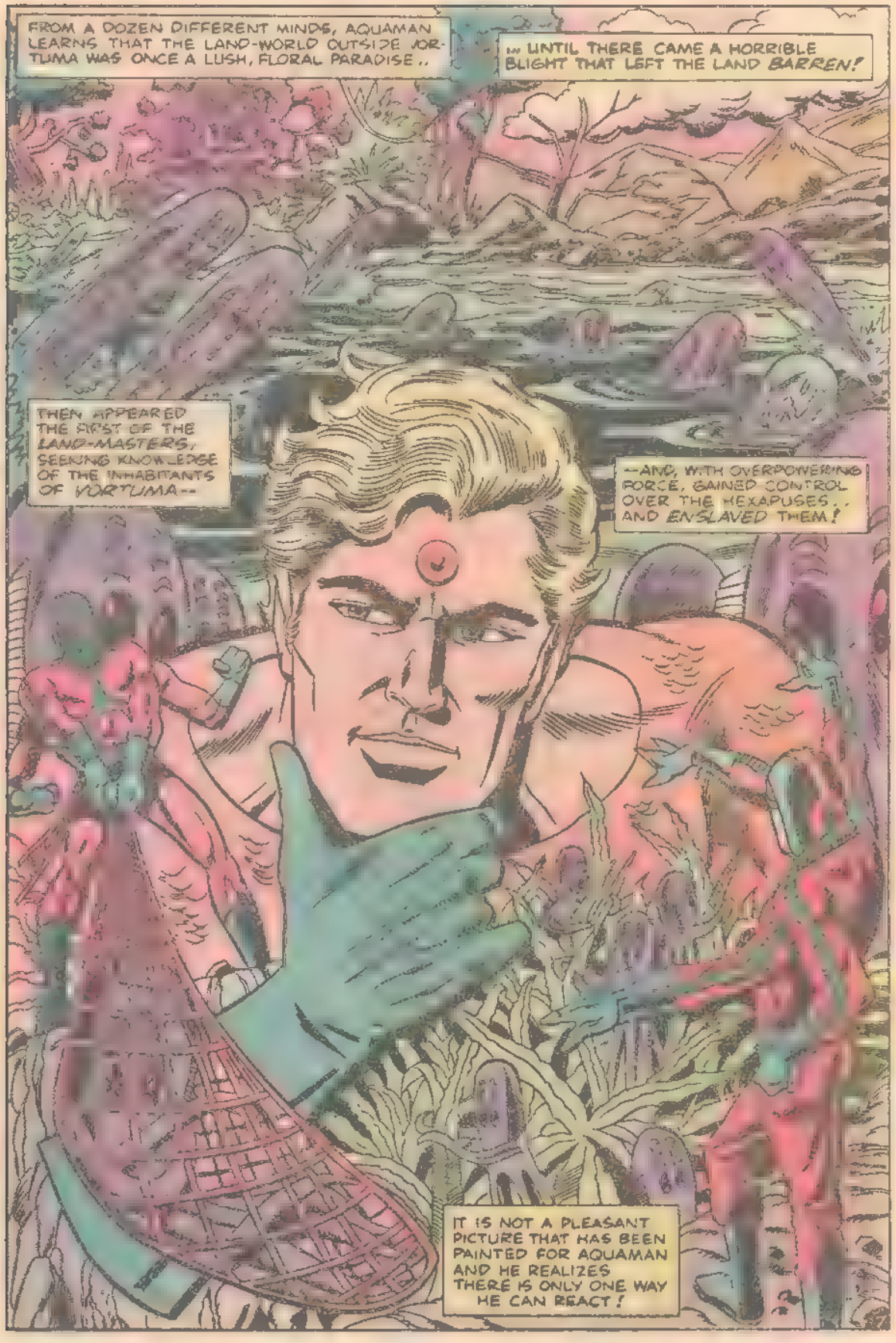
--AND SEND A COUNTER-WHIRLPOOL BACK AT HIM!


AND TO MAKE SURE HE TAKES A "SLEEP IN THE DEEP"--
--SOME BASIC PHYSICAL FORCE!

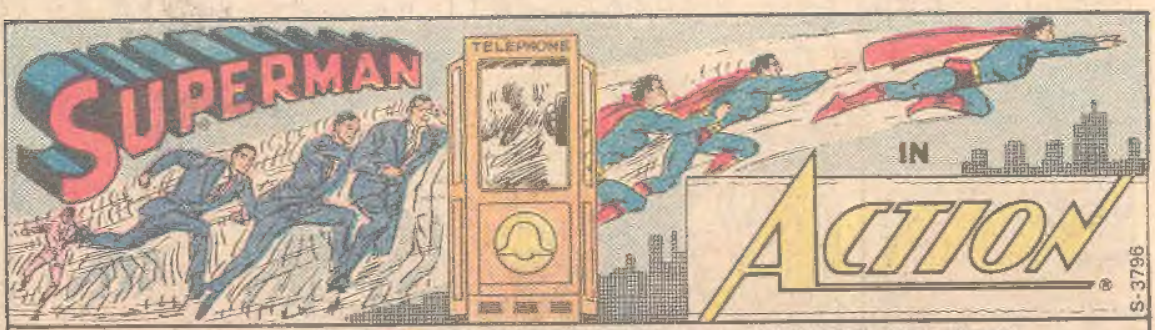

ALL RIGHT...GOVERNOR... DANGER IS OVER...SAFE TO GO...BACK HOME!
BUT NOT SAFE FOR YOU!


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ?
YOU MUST HIDE!
LAND-MASTERS WILL ASSASSINATE YOU FOR YOUR INTERFERENCE!

CONSIDERING WHAT I JUST DID TO THESE TWO, IT'S THE LAND-MASTERS WHO SHOULD GET OUT OF 'TOWN"!
COME! WE EXPLAIN LATER!
WHY..KILL ME? I MEAN NOTHING ...TO THEM!
NO USE IN ARGUING! THEY KNOW THEIR WORLD A LOT BETTER THAN I DO!
SWIMMING SWIFTLY THROUGH THE "VORTUM", THE SEAMAN OF EARTH FOLLOWS THE HEXAPUS--
--UNTIL THEY REACH--
AN UNDERWATER CAVE--NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE AQUACAVE I ONCE MAINTAINED ON EARTH.
LOOKS LIKE IT'LL BE SOMEWHAT CRAMPED, THOUGH!
IT'S A FULL-SIZE CAVERN... AND FULLY POPULATED!
IT'S LIT UP BY GLOWING ROCKS...
MADE OF...PHOSPHOROUS, IT APPEARS--COATED WITH ALGAE!
WITH THIS, IT'S OBVIOUS VORTUMA DIDN'T NEED A THOMAS EDISON TO INVENT THE ELECTRIC LIGHT-BULB!
YOU HAVE TOLD US SOMETHING OF YOUR WORLD, AQUAMAN..
NOW LET US GIVE YOU A BRIEF HISTORY OF OURS...


FROM A DOZEN DIFFERENT MINDS, AQUAMAN LEARNS THAT THE LAND-WORLD OUTSIDE JORTUMA WAS ONCE A LUSH, FLORAL PARADISE..
..UNTIL THERE CAME A HORRIBLE BLIGHT THAT LEFT THE LAND BARREN!
THEN APPEARED THE FIRST OF THE LAND-MASTERS, SEEKING KNOWLEDGE OF THE INHABITANTS OF JORTUMA--
--AND, WITH OVERPOWERING FORCE, GAINED CONTROL OVER THE HEXAPUSES.. AND ENSLAVED THEM!
IT IS NOT A PLEASANT PICTURE THAT HAS BEEN PAINTED FOR AQUAMAN AND HE REALIZES THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY HE CAN REACT!

WE WANT TO BE FREE...LIVE OUR LIVES AS WE DID IN THE PAST!
CAN YOU... WILL YOU... HELP US?
WITH ALL MY POWER AND MIGHT!
FLEE! LAND-MASTERS COMING!
WE CAREFULLY COVERED OUR TRAIL! HOW COULD THEY HAVE FOLLOWED US HERE?
HOW, INDEED? IS THERE A TRAITOR AMONG US--?
BUT NO TIME FOR THAT NOW--
--I DEFEATED THEM BEFORE... AND I CAN DO IT AGAIN!
UH-OH! THIS TIME, INSTEAD OF TWO, I HAVE TO BATTLE AN ARMY OF LAND-MASTERS!
NEXT ISSUE: IT'S SEA KINS AND SEA CREATURES VERSUS THE LAND-MASTERS IN... "DEATH IF BY LAND... DEATH IF BY SEA!"



c/o DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Editor:

The best thing about "Steve Lombard's Double Life" in *ACTION* #523 was the use of the Galaxy supporting cast. Although they didn't play a major role, it is exceptional to see Lois, Jimmy, Perry, Lana, Steve, Oscar, and Josh all in the same story; the only one missing was Morgan.

The opening baseball game was fantastic for its mood, setting, and showcasing of the above-named members. I do hope we will be treated to more such games here and in *SUPERMAN*. As if you couldn't tell, I really like these people and the more I see them the better.

The science-fiction plot was good, but nothing exceptional as far as *Superman* stories go. The thing I disliked most was that the moral was a little too strong. It should have been more subtle than *Superman* threatening a "performance your people will never forget". However, I still very much enjoyed the story and the Curt Swan/Frank Chiaramonte art was as fantastic as ever.

The Atom is one of my favorite heroes, yet as long as he has been around, we still do not know much about the man Ray Palmer. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time we have ever met his parents and learned their names, but since this story took place in the past, we still do not know of their fate today. I would like to know more about Ray, such as if he has any brothers or sisters, what motivated him to become a nuclear physicist, and how he became obsessed with size reduction.

"Eye of the Storm" was a great Time Pool story, but I felt that *The Calculator* was disposed of too easily, even if he does have a further plan. Next issue I hope we'll see more hero versus villain action.

KENT A. PHENIS,
1082 Sherwood Court #603,
Greenwood, IN 46142

What you got in #524 was heroes versus villain action, Kent. And when it's The Atom's turn for solo action again (in #531), we'll see what we can do about digging up some of his background! Okay?—BR

* * *

Dear Julie and Gang:

Well, we always thought there was something strange about Steve Lombard and now we know why! In "Steve Lombard's Double Life", we are treated to a brief journey into Lombard's past and family ties and I found it quite refreshing to see Steve cast in a light other than that of perpetual joker. The script was indeed original and entertaining and I felt that Gerry Conway had paced the action quite well.

Even so, I was glad to see Steve back to normal at the end, complete with a habitually terminal case of ego!

SUZANNE JONES,
703 N.W. 60th,
Kansas City, MO 64118

* * *

Dear DC Team:

ACTION #523 arrived right on time. The baseball season is in full swing. Fernando Valenzuela is setting the National League on fire. Billy "The Kid" Martin is still shooting off his mouth and getting in trouble. "Reggie!" bars are selling like hotcakes. (Do hotcakes really sell that well?) And now, the Galaxy All-Stars are in *ACTION* against a team of cocktail waitresses.

I can sympathize with Steve Lombard's embarrassment about getting clobbered by the girl's team. I never knew how hard I could sock a softball until the fifth grade when a girl pitcher had two strikes on me. It's amazing how super-powerful a guy can become when a girl has him on the verge of a "K"! (A "K" is a strikeout, baseball-wise!)

Did you notice that nobody noticed that Clark disappeared again? I guess when there's a six-eyed monster staring at you, Clark could change into his *Superman* suit in plain sight at normal speed and still go unnoticed.

The monsters stealing athletic abilities was an interesting concept. Too bad *I* couldn't have tapped Al Kaline to gain those Hall of Fame abilities, but all I could do was copy his batting stance and hope for favorable results. But there's nothing wrong with copying a superstar. After all, *Superman* copied *The Flash's* vibration stunt to beat the six-eyed beast.

Good old Clarkie-boy was good for some laughs this time. He's as graceful as a cross-eyed elephant on a lopsided skateboard. When Clark was conked on the head on page 2, it brought back memories of the time my brother conked two heads with one hit. How's that for a "doubleheader"? (Fortunately, neither of the two heads was mine!)

TIM WAHOWSKE,
2307 Braidwood Road,
Emmett, MI 48022

ACTION #523 may have gone on sale in the midst of the baseball season, but it went off sale in midst of the baseball strike. (This one not a "K", baseball-wise!) Do you think the Galaxy All-Stars could provide a suitable alternative?—BR

* * *

Dear Editor:

After seeing *SUPERMAN II*, I'm so eager to embark on a walking tour of the Arctic that I can hardly get my light-brown jacket zipped up, let alone comment on still another tricky day in *Superman's* life brought about by those aliens in *ACTION* #523!

JEFFREY LOWNDES,
809 Sunset Street,
Scranton, PA 18509

Make sure to take a hat! Clark didn't and his ears got cold!—BR

* * *

Dear Sir,

I can't believe Gerry Conway wrote this. An off-beat gimmick of a weirdo alien claiming to be Steve Lombard's brother, a couple of sharp plot twists, and generous helpings of humor throughout. Are you sure we didn't go through a time warp to Cary Bates' stint on *ACTION COMICS*?

GARY THOMPSON,
3701 Roosevelt,
Dearborn, MI 48124

No, but an alien claims to be the brother of both Cary and Gerry...so maybe they're all related!—Bob Rozakis

Be a GREAT RACER...

See Your AURORA® AFX® Dealer!

So Fast... So Real... You Almost Hear The Crowd!

Corvette Challenge™

Non-stop over-and-under racing thrills—with new AFX® chromed Corvettes! Featuring AFX® Magnatraction™ for a strong hold on corners and real pick-up on straight aways! Two cars with gleaming chrome finish, 8½ feet of track, guardrails, track supports etc.

Firebird Fever™

Day and Night racing two super-fast Firebirds with AFX® Flamethrower™ headlites! Fully decorated cars, 10 feet of track, snap-in AFX® "Glow in the Dark" guardrails, etc.

Custom Eight™

Custom car racing set—includes 2 "Road Hugging" AFX® Magnatraction™ cars, 8½ feet of over-and-under figure '8' track, snap in guard rails, track supports, etc.

Highway Pursuit™

Smokey races against the AFX® Express—thundering over the AFX® Golden Gate Bridge AFX® Police Cruiser with flashing roof rack, Lited Rig with detachable trailer, 9" Squeeze track, 36" bridge section, 18½ feet of track, "Glow in the Dark" guardrails, etc.

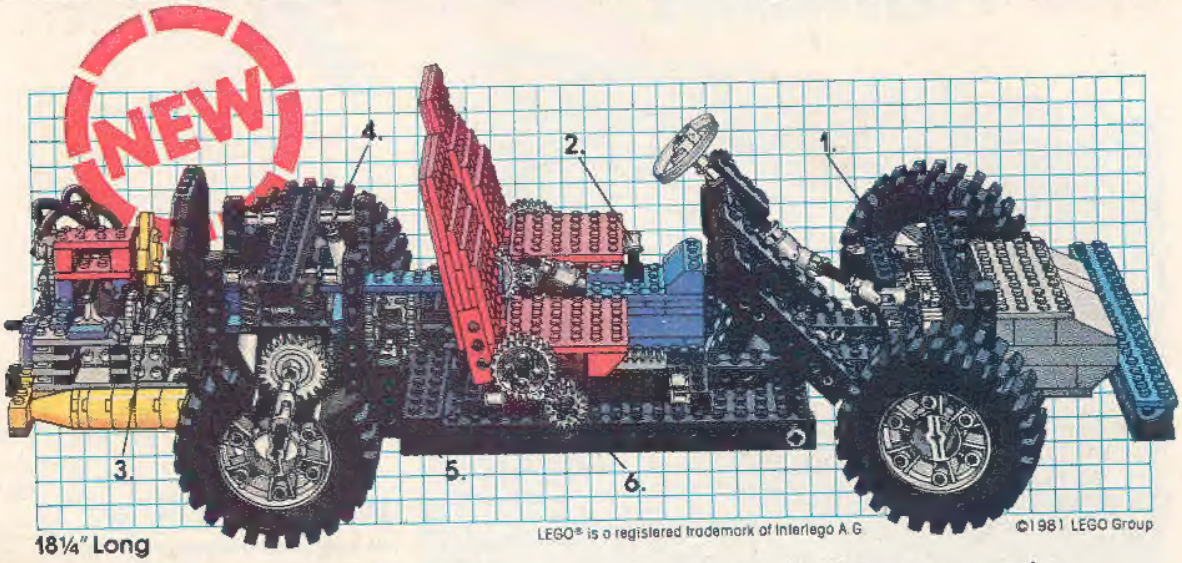
Grand Prix International™

Jet-paced Formula I racing! 22 feet of track—three levels of racing—plus seven curves and bends! Two AFX® G-Plus cars, track supports...guardrails and billboards...overhead mechanical lap counter...

NOTE: All sets include 2 hand controllers, safety wall pak, track repair clips, racing oil, and AFX® Technical Manual

EXPERT BUILDER™ SERIES

CHALLENGE #8860



18¼" Long

LEGO® is a registered trademark of Interlego A.G.
©1981 LEGO Group

1. Rack and pinion steering.
2. Two-speed transmission.
3. Working crankshaft and pistons.
4. Independent rear suspension.
5. Differential gears.
6. Adjustable reclining seats.

If it's a challenge you want, it's a challenge you'll get with the LEGO® Expert Builder Auto Chassis. You build it from the ground up and you build the working parts right in. It has gears, pistons and universal joints that really move. Add an Expert Builder Power Pack and it revs to life. Or choose your challenge from nine other Expert Builder sets. From a Mobile Crane to a Motorcycle. From a Harvester to a Helicopter. Each set builds other models, too. There's even a Spare Parts Set and an Idea Book to let you build bigger and bolder than ever. Take a crack at the LEGO Expert Builder Series. You'll be proud to say, "I did it myself."

DEFINITELY NOT KID'S STUFF.